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# Preventing Radicalisation

## Role of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)

**On 9 September 2011**, the European Commission launched the EU-wide Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) to draw on the extensive knowledge of practitioners, researchers and NGOs and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices in the field of preventing and responding to radicalisation.

Since its inception, RAN has gathered front line practitioners and experts from different Member States, sectors and organisations to discuss the various aspects of radicalisation.

The work has led to:

- the creation of a collection of methodologies and best practices to serve as a practical source for practitioners <sup>1</sup>;
- the setting up of networks of practitioners, including police, law enforcement, prison and probation staff, health practitioners, social workers, internet and media professionals, and victims representatives.

RAN currently consists of eight, specialised working groups such as a police working group, a prison and probation working group and so on. It also consists of over 1 000 active practitioners from all 28 EU Member States.

1 [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/ran-best-practices/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/ran-best-practices/index_en.htm)



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## **FOREIGN FIGHTERS**

More recently, RAN has been called upon to address the phenomena of so called 'foreign fighters' – EU nationals who go to fight in foreign countries.

To do this, RAN has been involved in holding cross-cutting workshops that examine ways to work together with local authorities and families and also exploring ways to counter the often violent and extremist propaganda of terrorists.

On 30 January 2014, RAN organised a Cities Conference at which practitioners and policy makers from municipalities most affected by the foreign fighters problem as well as representatives of other interested Member States were able to discuss the magnitude of the phenomenon of foreign fighters and challenges as well as good practices for engagement with foreign fighters before and after travel.

Following the Cities Conference, RAN presented a Declaration of Good Practices with Foreign Fighters for Prevention, Outreach, Rehabilitation and Reintegration. Particular emphasis was put on measures to support families of radicalised individuals and/or those at risk of radicalisation. RAN has helped Member States to map out family support practices and distil the key lessons learnt from them.

## **FUNDING**

RAN in its current form is operated and funded under the terms of a framework contract until the beginning of 2015.

As part of the EU's resolve to strengthen its response to radicalisation and violent extremism, the establishment of a RAN Centre of Excellence will aim at facilitating and enhancing the exchange of experiences between relevant stakeholders; supporting the EU and Member States in their efforts to prevent radicalisation; and consolidating, disseminating and sharing expertise, best practices, and targeted research.

The RAN Centre's services are designed to primarily support RAN, build on the activities of RAN and further develop RAN expertise.

The Commission will earmark up to EUR 25 million between 2014-2017 for the RAN Centre of Excellence. In addition a dedicated Call for Proposals – Preventing Radicalisation to Terrorism and Violent Extremism, under the centrally managed part of the Internal Security Fund (ISF) – was published in 2014 with a budget of EUR 3 million.