

The Radicalisation Awareness Network Annual Activity Plan 2019 — a summary

Introduction

The Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) was set up by the European Commission in 2012 as an EU-wide umbrella network connecting first-line practitioners and local actors around Europe. RAN's role has been significantly enhanced over the years, strengthening links between practitioners, policymakers and researchers.

The annual activity plan for 2019 reflects the general objective to better address specific needs in Member States to improve the knowledge transfer. To address challenges and priorities in a coherent and effective way, the AAP 2019 focusses on certain activities in roadmaps. While these roadmaps do not cover all RAN activities, they are indicative of the topics that will receive particular attention in 2019.

Priorities for 2019

The 2019 Annual Activity Plan, as approved by the European Commission, is based on in-depth discussions between RAN Working Group co-chairs and the RAN Centre of Excellence and takes stock of insights from academics. The results of these discussions were shared and further discussed with frontline practitioners at the RAN Plenary.

This year's plan also integrates recommendations in the final report of the High-Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation¹ (HLCEG-R) and the European Court of Auditors².

The RAN Working Groups

[Communication and Narratives \(RAN C&N\)](#)

[Education \(RAN EDU\)](#)

[EXIT \(RAN EXIT\)](#)

[Youth, Families and Communities \(RAN YF&C\)](#)

[Local authorities \(RAN LOCAL\)](#)

[Prison and Probation \(RAN P&P\)](#)

[Police and law enforcement \(RAN POL\)](#)

[Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism \(RAN RVT\)](#)

[Health and Social Care \(RAN H&SC\)](#)

[Young \(RAN YOUNG\)](#)

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE ANNUAL ACTIVITY PLAN

Building synergies

A dynamic exchange between practitioners and policymakers is key in preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). Supporting Member States, catering to national needs and sharing RAN expertise with policymakers will be high on the agenda.

Increasing knowledge transfer

RAN has collected an enormous amount of knowledge from first-line practitioners. In 2019, sharing this knowledge will be key. Continuous social media engagement will ensure increased dissemination of deliverables that are visually attractive and tailored to specific target groups (manuals for practitioners, policy briefs for national authorities and tutorials to provide expertise). A newly designed RAN newsletter, a reorganised website and innovative communication methods, which include strategic use of social media channels to provide a valuable multiplier effect, will contribute to this enhanced visibility of the deliverables.

Valuing knowledge

RAN's links to academia provide vital insights into current research, thinking and trends. In 2019, research activities will contribute to delivering more evidence-based interventions and evaluations. A report on current research will provide an overview of research outcomes in priority areas.

Tailoring events to different needs

Several types of meetings will be organised in 2019. Each type of meeting will address different needs and objectives.

Academy meetings: Catering to the needs of newcomers in preventing radicalisation, the aim is to disseminate lessons learnt, discuss current challenges and inspiring practices, and share recommendations for practice, policy and research. For instance, academy meetings will be organised by the Police and law enforcement Working Group on how to improve the dissemination and implementation of police-initiated approaches for preventing/countering violent extremism, and by the Communication and Narratives Working Group on how to make attractive campaigns.

Expert sessions: To identify trends, develop new insights into specialist areas of preventing and countering radicalisation, and/or explore in-depth complex concepts. For instance, expert sessions will be held to further develop the knowledge base around particular interventions that are being used to deal with violent extremist and terrorist offenders (such as interventions aimed at preventing or countering radicalisation with specific focus on exit programmes).

Multi-agency meetings: To exchange between several professional fields working on the prevention and countering of radicalisation. Each meeting will include representatives of at least two Working Groups. For instance, a multi-agency meeting will be organised by the Education Working Group and the Health and Social Care Working Group to explore cross-cutting challenges and solutions in relation with vulnerabilities of refugee children which can be further increased in schools.

¹ See the High-Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation, [Final Report](#), 18 May 2018

² See [Special report](#) on radicalisation of the European Court of Auditors, 29 May 2018

RAN YOUNG Empowerment Academy

This programme focusses on empowering young people (ages 18-25) with the aim of preparing them to set up their own local P/CVE initiative. In the Academy, they will work inter alia on skills and competences needed to be a youth influencer and to set up their local sustainable P/CVE initiative. The participants will receive guidance from RAN YOUNG Working Group leaders, the RAN CoE and in particular local mentors. Four sessions will be held in 2019. Starting with a kick-off meeting and goal setting, the sessions include a review of the challenges and progress, sharing experiences and taking stock of results.

ROADMAPS: BRINGING TOGETHER PERSPECTIVES OF MULTIPLE RAN WORKING GROUP CONSTITUENCIES

Rehabilitation of radicalised and terrorist offenders

Context: Ideology is one of the factors that can feed the radicalisation process. Understanding ideology and how it works for an individual is very complex. Most practitioners are unsure how to respond.

Objective: To make the concept of ideology more tangible by highlighting the key narratives, symbols and forms in which it is being expressed and used to recruit others.

2019 activities: Working Group meetings will be held to help these target groups understand how schools can challenge far right extremism and Islamist extremist ideology. Bringing together several Working Groups, a multi-agency meeting will delve into the most popular narratives and strategies of far right extremists and Islamist extremism organisations. A Policy and Practice

event, as well as Member States workshops and an expert mission, will be organised on these topics.

Coming up: Two factbooks (designed to provide a convenient and comprehensive source of information): one on Islamist extremism and the other on far right extremism. Both will provide insight into the concept of ideology, the main narratives, words and symbols used.

Islamist extremist and far right extremist ideologies

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Evaluation on interventions

Context: Evaluation plays a vital role in determining whether the work done in preventing and countering radicalisation and violent extremism is effective. It helps practitioners learn and become better in delivering interventions and have a greater impact.

2019 activities: Meetings dedicated to evaluation will explore ways to estimate the impact of interventions, including a focus on exit programmes. The impact of victims of terrorism testimonies and counter- and alternative narrative campaigns will benefit from evaluation. The focus will also be on 'practice based' evaluation which concerns policymakers and practitioners conducting more structured and systematic evaluations of interventions to set clear objectives and translate these into measurable indicators. An expert session will be held on dissemination, implementation and evaluation of educational prevention projects and approaches. There will also be meetings and papers dedicated to the review of exit work. A study visit will gather representatives from three Member States to discuss in depth the set-up and evaluating of their exit work. A research seminar will also address this topic.

Coming up: RAN review format for exit work (manual) and a RAN research paper, focussing inter alia on the evaluation of interventions.





Outreach and support to Member States and priority third countries

EU Member States

Building on the wealth of experience from RAN practitioners, RAN will provide tailor-made support addressing the needs identified by Member States. Support services can benefit Member States at national level but also at local or regional level.

The following will be offered:

Seven workshops

In 2019, four workshops will explore the topic of ideologies (based on the factbooks: two on jihadism and two on far right extremism). There will also be one workshop on developing an in-depth RAN train-the-trainer for several actors, including specifically prison and probation. Two workshops are also planned to disseminate knowledge and lessons of the manual on rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalised and terrorist offenders.

Four training sessions

Four train-the-trainer sessions will be held for national trainers or radicalisation experts with training skills. These will be based on the general awareness raising training used since 2015. Another two in-depth training sessions will be held upon request. Participants of these sessions will receive guidance and training material to assist them to deliver trainings and adjust these to national circumstances.

Counselling services and support for nine projects

RAN can provide support to the initiatives identified in the Strategic Orientations³, subject to the steer and approval of the Commission. Support will also be given to the Deutsche Präventionstag that will focus on the theme 'Prevention & Democracy Promotion'.

Priority third countries

RAN may provide support to priority third countries under certain circumstances, and subject to both available funding and approval by the Commission. In 2019, there is a plan to provide five support deliveries to third countries, one more than in 2018. The focus will predominately be on the Western Balkans, Turkey and the MENA region. Rather than focusing on the Western Balkans as a region, RAN will cater to the specific countries' needs in this region.

RAN will increasingly open up events to participants from third countries and in particular the Western Balkans.

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail&groupDetail&groupID=3626&NewSearch=1&NewSearch=1>

Calendar of events

Over the course of the year, RAN will organise up to three meetings for each Working Group. Five multi-agency meetings, which will include representatives of at least two Working Groups, are also planned. The list includes a RAN EXIT and RAN RVT multi-agency event on rehabilitation, resocialisation and the quality of exit work, with the help of RAN P&P. Another is a RAN C&N and RAN POL multi-agency meeting on most used and most watched narratives of far right extremists and Islamist extremists.

What is more, five study visits, and six Policy & Practice events (including one delivered in Romania, holding the Presidency in the first half of 2019 and one in collaboration with the Finnish Presidency) will be held. There will also be two events for beneficiaries of the Civil Society Empowerment Program, the Remembrance Day for Victims of terrorism, the RAN plenary, and the RAN High-Level Conference involving policymakers and practitioners from across Europe.



Calendar of events
<https://bit.ly/2EafnCX>

