

RAN Update 10

RAN



November, 2013

This is an update on the progress of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You have participated in a RAN working group activity, or you have registered your interest in the network. Therefore you receive this e-mail, as do some 800 other people. If you do not want to receive such e-mails, please let us know. Feel free to distribute this RAN Update and suggest others to subscribe.

Current RAN matters

The RAN is continuously working on the Collection of Promising Practices. These are practices focused on countering radicalisation and violent extremism and have come forward in RAN meetings and from the network as a whole. At a later stage, the Collection will be available online.

If you have suggestions of practices to be included or want to check whether your practice is already part of the Collection, please contact the RAN Secretariat (please find contact details below).

Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

Last RAN Update dated from October. Since then, the following RAN activities took place:

- **RAN P&P** had a meeting with 8 core members on **8 October in Copenhagen** to discuss and prepare the programme of their plenary meeting in December.
- The fourth meeting of **RAN VVT on 15-16 October in Rome** dealt with the use of indirect testimonies of victims of terrorism in the education of 12-18 years old adolescents. The meeting was attended by representatives of prevent organisations and associations of victims of terrorism who have dedicated programmes and a relevant track record in this field. Also some academics were involved. The meeting was attended by 55 people and was held at Tor Vergata University that kindly opened their doors to RAN VVT. Of the attendees more than 10 were Italian students doing their master on issues related to radicalisation.
- Indirect testimonies of victims of terrorism are ways of using the story of a victim without him/her being physically present e.g. using a film or a book. The advantage is that a bigger audience can be reached with less effort. However, challenges remain such as: effectiveness of the testimonies as a piece of counter communication against violent extremism, loss of control over the message/possible misuse or not getting feedback. Partly the direct and indirect testimonies share the same requirements to be effective; partly working with indirect testimonies has other demands. It is important that the indirect sources are part of a well developed and well prepared programme in which the youngsters and the educators will be prepared, each in their own way. The educators need a training and a manual to be able to address possible questions and certain behaviour, to contextualise the narrative and to guide the discussion. The youngsters need to be informed and

triggered beforehand, because some youngsters may be shy, afraid or not interested in the topic.

- **The RAN SC** came together on **17 October** in **Brussels** to further discuss the RAN Collection of Promising Practices and to reflect on the updated policy recommendations from the WG's. Plans and urgent topics for the RAN in the upcoming year were also discussed, as they will feed into the European Commission Communication on Preventing Radicalisation towards Terrorism and Violent Extremism. On the **18th of October** the SC attended the third and final meeting of MS experts on the Commission Communication. During this meeting the RAN Working Group leaders informed the MS experts on the progress of their Working Groups and answered MS experts' questions. An introduction to the RAN Collection of Promising Practices was given to the MS experts as one of the concrete deliverables of RAN so far. MS experts were invited to share more practices from their home countries with the RAN to strengthen the Collection.

Activities coming up

- On **19-20 November**, **RAN PREVENT** is organising a small-scale study visit to the newest Member State - Croatia, to discuss prevention of radicalisation in post-conflict areas. The meeting will be focused on answering questions such as: How to successfully mobilise preventive, positive forces in societies where the wounds are still fresh and divisions between communities are sharp? What role can NGO's and citizens play and what is the responsibility and contribution of local and national governments?
- A third thematic meeting of **RAN HEALTH** will take place on **22 November** in **Amsterdam** on the subject of 'Escalation structure and awareness'.
- **RAN POL** will organise a working visit to the UK on **10-11 December** to study the UK approach, activities and developed projects with local practitioners.
- **RAN P&P** will have a plenary meeting on **11-12 December** in **Berlin** on the subject of interventions for deradicalisation in prison and probation settings. The aim is to connect theory on this subject to concrete experiences and initiatives on a practical level. One of the key note speakers will be Tore Bjørgo, expert in (especially right-wing) radicalisation processes leading to violent extremism.
- **RAN HEALTH** will present the outcomes of the three thematic meetings at a plenary Working Group meeting, to be organised in early 2014.
- On **30 January 2014**, a **Cities Conference on Foreign Fighters to Syria** will take place in **The Hague**. Several Member States suggested the European Commission and the Radicalisation Awareness Network to organise such a Cities Conference. Cities with dozens of inhabitants fighting in Syria will be selected, as we limit the gathering to some 20 cities from eight concerned Member States. Conference participants will be representatives from European cities that are faced with the challenge of citizens leaving to and returning from Syria. The aim of the conference is to share experiences and knowledge on how to deal with this from different sectorial and organisational perspectives. Each city is invited to attend with a delegation of five practitioners from specific sectors.

Contact details

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http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/index_en.htm