

RAN Update 11



January, 2014

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.

Communication and RAN Collection

On Wednesday 15 January, the European Commission, has adopted a **Communication** called “ **Preventing radicalisation to terrorism and violent extremism: Strengthening the EU's response**”, taking into account the work undertaken for two years by the RAN and its 800 practitioners. In this document, 10 areas in which Member States and the EU are called to reinforce their actions to prevent all types of extremism that lead to violence, regardless of who inspires it, are identified.

Together with the adoption of the Communication, the first edition of the **RAN Collection of Practices** was launched. This document, elaborated by the RAN, contains eight main approaches in preventing and countering radicalisation and violent extremism, lessons learned and around 70 practices which provide information and inspiration to practitioners in Europe and elsewhere. The RAN Collection of Practices is regularly updated to include more practices. New editions will be announced in the RAN Updates. Both documents, the Communication and the Collection, can be found through the link to the general website given below in the contact details.

Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

- On **19-20 November 2013**, **RAN PREVENT** organised a small-scale study visit to the newest Member State - Croatia, to discuss prevention of radicalisation in post-conflict areas. The meeting was attended by some 11 participants from the Balkans, Northern-Ireland and Spain. Discussion focused on the specifics of post-conflict areas with regard to preventing radicalisation and violent extremism. An important point was raised that it is the violence that has stopped in these regions, not necessarily the conflict. Therefore, when it comes to prevention, attention needs to be paid to the sources of continuous conflict (trauma's, grievances, vulnerable societies etc.) and how these are passed on through generations. Dialogue and reconciliation work with trained and credible mediators, positive leadership, strong Civil Society that feeds bottom-up initiatives and sensitization to mental health care/trauma work came forward as important instruments to prevent future violence and extremism in post-violent conflict areas.
- A third thematic meeting of **RAN HEALTH** took place on **22 November 2013** in **Amsterdam** on the subject of ‘Escalation structure and awareness’. In different break out sessions the working group discussed the basic requirements, the development of methodologies, structures and products for awareness raising to first line practitioners. Furthermore the group explored how RAN Health can support Member States who are commencing pilots of awareness raising in the Health sector.

- **RAN POL** organised a working visit to the UK on **10-11 December 2013** to study the UK approach, activities and developed projects run by the UK police or where police is playing a crucial role. Police men of 23 Member States had the opportunity to get inspiration from these promising practices.
- On **11-12 December 2013** in **Berlin** **RAN P&P** held the third plenary meeting on the subject of interventions for deradicalisation in prison and probation settings. Some 50 participants attended the meeting, representing almost all EU countries. The two key-note speakers, Peter Neumann and Tore Bjørge, focused on the more theoretical side of deradicalisation in prison and probation settings. They introduced their research into the key elements of good deradicalisation work, the profiles of extremists and different ways to create disillusionment about their ideological cause when compared to reality. Participants could choose to go to four of eight available workshops in which theory was translated into concrete practices. These practices were: Back on Track, EXIT Sweden, Unity Initiative, Denkzeit, Violence Prevention Network, EXIT Germany, Deradicalisation experiences from the Arab world and Miteinander.
- **RAN DERAD** organised a meeting on the role of Women, Girls and Gender in Extremism on **12-13 December** in **Berlin**. The meeting was a cooperation with Culture Interactive who work on the research project 'WomEx - Women and Girls in Extremism'. Some 30 participants attended, both from the German network and from the RAN. During the meeting it became apparent that the connection between, gender and radicalisation and violent extremism is often rather traditional. Often women are considered as bystander, witness or girlfriend/wife of a radical man. Recent patterns show that women play a much more dominant and independent role in violent extremism and radical scenes. A critical question during the meeting was whether a gendered approach (specific approach for men or women) is needed in the radicalisation/violent extremism field or whether a gender sensitive approach (taking gender into account but not focused on this) is more suitable.

Activities coming up

- **RAN HEALTH** will present the outcomes of the three thematic meetings at a plenary Working Group meeting , to be organised in early 2014.
- **RAN @** will have a small-scale expert meeting on **29 January** in **The Hague** to discuss dissemination methods of counter-narrative films.

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. Close to 20 cities with inhabitants fighting in Syria will be attending. These close to 20 cities are located in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands, and were selected by the national authorities in cooperation with RAN. Some French practitioners will attend without representing a specific city. Over hundred practitioners, working in specific sectors in these cities, are invited. In addition some fifty representatives from national authorities and the RAN working group leaders will participate. The aim of the conference is to share experiences and knowledge on how to deal with citizens leaving to and returning from Syria. In the morning there will be break out sessions on community engagement, supporting families and deradicalisation/disengagement. In the afternoon the practitioners will

break out in sector sessions: local government, legal and law enforcement, education, youth work, mental health and NGO.

A special news-item will be distributed after the Cities Conference containing the most important outcomes.

- The **RAN Steering Committee** will come together on **12 February in Brussels** to discuss the activities for the third year of RAN, which starts at the end of March.
- **RAN PREVENT** will organise a meeting on hate crime, violent groups and prevention of violent extremism on a local level titled 'From hate to violence'. The focus will be on Central-Eastern Europe and the meeting will take place in **Prague on 13-14 February**.

Contact details

The RAN Secretariat is executed by RadarEurope, which is a subsidiary of the RadarGroup:

RAN
Veemarkt 83
1019 DB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
+31 20 463 50 50
ran@radaradvies.nl

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