

RAN Update 21



May, 2015

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, as do some 1500 other people, if you have participated in a RAN working group activity, or if you have registered your interest in the network. 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.

Cross-cutting event: Dealing with foreign fighters - Challenges and good practices

On 15 and 16 June 2015, the RAN organises a cross-cutting event in Brussels on foreign fighters. During the event, three issues will be discussed:

1. Preventing radicalisation and recruitment in prison and re-socialisation,
2. How to handle returnees: from hidden terrorists to disillusioned youngsters, and
3. Teaming up with parents and communities to prevent travelling.

The programme will consist of panel discussions and interactive break-out sessions to promote an active exchange of knowledge between the participants. The meeting is targeted at practitioners from different fields and countries who currently face this challenge and want to exchange on experiences, strategies and practices.

RAN Collection - 2015 edition

One of the aims of the RAN is to collect and share promising practices in the area of preventing and countering radicalisation leading to violent extremism. These practices, accompanied by lessons learned from the RAN, are currently available in [the RAN Collection](#), published in 2014. The RAN Collection is designed as a practical, evolving tool, where practitioners, first liners and policy makers may draw inspiration, find replicable examples to adapt to their local/specific context and look for counterparts to exchange prevent experiences. It illustrates the kind of measures that are taken in different areas, such as: enhancing the awareness and competence of first line practitioners, involving and engaging with communities, families, victims of terrorism or former terrorists, addressing new forms of radicalisation (e.g. through an increased use of the Internet and social media) and establishing the appropriate framework for comprehensive prevent work. Besides a peer review of practices through RAN meetings, the Collection is also reviewed by the RAN Steering Committee. The Collection will be updated before the summer having reviewed existing as well as new practices.

Dissemination of RAN lessons at non-RAN events

The RAN also participates in conferences and other events to share experience and expertise with third parties. The RAN shared its lessons learned regarding prison regimes and exit strategies at a symposium of the Austrian Ministry of Justice which took place on 23 April 2015 in Vienna. The RAN will also contribute with its expertise in the prison and probation sector to the 4th EuroPris Conference and Annual General Meeting on 8 June in Bucharest. On education, the RAN Prevent Manifesto fed into discussions during the High-Level Debate of the European Youth Week 2015, on 6 May in Brussels. With regard to Foreign Fighters, RAN experts provided input for the draft working document on radicalisation and foreign fighters prepared by MEP Rachida Dati. The RAN will also

share its knowledge and practices on foreign terrorist fighters at the upcoming OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Expert Conference entitled *Countering the Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters*, to be held on 30 June-1 July in Vienna. Through the participation of its experts, RAN also contributed to raising awareness and developing tools to tackle radicalisation in the Balkans during the Regional Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, that took place in Tirana, Albania, on 19-21 May 2015. RAN representatives also participated in several international forums, such as the 4th Annual Plenary Meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) in Kampala, Uganda, on 19-20 March 2015, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) workshop on *Countering violent extremism and the criminal justice preventive strategy against terrorism*, organised in Aqaba, Jordan, on 14-17 April 2015.

Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

RAN INT/EXT discussed successful de-radicalisation practices for Foreign Fighters

On 13 April 2015 in Amsterdam (NL), the INT/EXT working group discussed lessons learned for providing the best after-care programmes for different types of returnees: those who return disillusioned, those who return traumatised, those who return further radicalised and the “jihadi brides”. The practitioners present discussed these typologies of returned foreign fighters and focused on what specific de-radicalisation interventions and good practices work for the different groups. Some of the main takeaways were that theological discussion with severely radicalised returnees is counterproductive, and that “Jihadi-brides” are not necessarily always radicalised, but the ideological narrative provides them answers to issues such as seeking a (religious) identity, distorted family relations and/or emancipatory issues.

RAN Derad brought together practitioners from Baltic States, Finland and Poland

Participants from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland and Poland gathered in Riga (LV) on 16-17 April 2015. Local practitioners shared their experiences. This region is affected by radicalisation on a limited scale, but there are growing concerns regarding Foreign Fighters and the affiliation to groups in the Ukraine. Specific tools, measures and practices to better signal radicalisation are being developed for this region, but the challenge is to better understand this phenomenon and deal with the limited information present. Another necessity is to strengthen the collaboration between the government or national authorities, such as police, and NGO’s and welfare organisations in order to improve the chain of referrals. The RAN Derad working group helped further develop the local practitioners’ approaches, encouraged exchange, and promoted an up-skilling of de-radicalisation work in this region of Europe.

RAN Prison and Probation taking stock of lessons learned

RAN P&P is working towards a Working Group paper in which the knowledge, insights, lessons learned and recommendations up until now will be presented. On the 29th of April, a small group of RAN P&P participants came together in Amsterdam to discuss the objective, target group and main content of the paper. From the perspective of the individuals’ steps through the judicial system, topics included will cover: identification of extremism, risk and responsivity assessment, training, risk management, deradicalisation and disengagement interventions, prerequisites for a healthy prison and probation environment, and reintegration into society.

Upcoming Activities

RAN Member State support to Finland

On 3-4 June, a group of RAN experts will be involved in a review of the Finnish National Action Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism. The objectives of this RAN support are to evaluate the national action plan from a comparative, European perspective and to offer insight into best practices and methods in the area of preventing violent extremism.

RAN Steering Committee gathers in June

The Steering Committee will come together on 17 June to discuss the state of play of the RAN activities in year 3-4, and the dissemination of output resulting from RAN activities. Also, the SC will discuss the Commission's new European Agenda on Security, and envisaged involvement of the RAN. The updated RAN Collection of best practices, with additional practices, is currently being reviewed by the SC.

RAN POL will organise a study visit to The Hague (NL)

On 30 June and 1 July RAN POL organises a study visit to The Hague (NL) for twenty policemen from different Member states. Dutch approaches in preventing radicalisation through engagement with communities and families will be shown. The role of diversity and multicultural craftsmanship in this line of work will be taken into account. A field trip into the neighbourhoods, police stations, community centres and schools, is intended to be part of the programme.

RAN @ will engage private sector partners in the counter-narrative challenge

On 7 July a meeting will take place in London (UK) to engage new potential private sector partners in the counter-narrative challenge (i.e. PR and ad agencies, marketing and communications companies, data analytics, social media platforms and security companies) with a view to exploring what the private sector can do to help (e.g. NGOs and practitioners to develop tools) to counter extremism. The aim of the meeting is to organize exchange between involved industry partners and practitioners in the field of countering and preventing violent extremism. This exchange should lead to new and innovative ways to cooperate and to work on prevention of extremism online.

RAN Derad plenary to finalise the Derad Declaration

On 3-4 July in Budapest (HU), a RAN Derad plenary meeting will discuss a revised version of the RAN Derad Declaration. After the first draft of the Derad Declaration was discussed in Warsaw late 2014, it was rewritten with the input of the participants. This second discussion of the declaration will be the finishing touch. When finalised, the document will be disseminated to all people who attended RAN Derad meetings over time. They will be encouraged to spread the document to relevant partners in their work field.

RAN Calendar

June	July
RAN Expertise for Finland <u>Date and location:</u> 3-4 June, Helsinki (FI)	RAN Derad <i>Finalising the Derad Declaration</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 3-4 July, Budapest (HU)
RAN cross-cutting event Dealing with foreign fighters - <i>Challenges and good practices</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 15-16 June, Brussels (BE)	RAN @ <i>Private sector partners and practitioners</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 7 July, London (UK)
RAN SC <u>Date and location:</u> 17 June, Brussels (EU)	
RAN POL <i>Study visit to the Netherlands</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 30 June - 1 July, The Hague (NL)	

All RAN support for MSs allocated

In addition to being beneficial for European first line practitioners, last year the RAN started to offer support to EU Member States. All support available, has been deployed or planned. The RAN train-the-trainers course has been delivered in 5 Member States, and an additional training is foreseen for the Czech Republic. Also, RAN experts supported policy making, development and review in 4 MSs, and the final RAN expert deliveries will take place in Finland and Austria. In three exit workshops, no less than 12 MSs were supported. Finally, 6 MSs received support in setting up a national network.

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