

RAN Update 22



July, 2015

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, as do some 1800 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.

100+ RAN activities since set up of the network

Recently, the 100th RAN activity took place. Since the network was set up, 103 activities were delivered. This concerns mainly working group meetings to allow practitioners to exchange insights and peer review each others' best practices. As a new feature, activities were organised to directly support EU Member States since last year.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4 Quarter 1
RAN @	2	2	2	1
RAN DERAD	2	4	3	2
RAN HEALTH	3	5	4	
RAN INT/EXT	2	3	1	1
RAN P&P	1	5	3	1
RAN POL	4	3	2	1
RAN PREVENT	1	4	3	
RAN VVT	2	3	3	
RAN SC	3	4	3	1
PLENARY/HLC/Thematic	2	1	1	1
RAN MSs			12	2
Subtotal	22	34	37	10
Total	103			

RAN cross-cutting event on Foreign Fighters

RAN organised a cross-cutting event on Foreign Fighters on 15-16 June in Brussels. The goal of this event was to look at the state of play, the current challenges and possible solutions with practitioners at the forefront. The following three topics were discussed:

- Teaming up with parents and communities to prevent travel;
- How to handle returnees: from hidden terrorists to disillusioned young people;
- Resocialisation and preventing recruitment in prison.

Following contexts were taken into consideration: the lack of intervention providers on radicalisation and formers to "de-radicalise/disengage" Foreign Fighters across Europe, blurred lines between victims & perpetrators, suspects & partners and the need for reciprocal information exchange between all stakeholders.

Interactive break-out sessions allowed to address the most pressing challenges and possible solutions. Insights were given into handling returnees in the mental health sector, de-radicalisation approach in French prisons and the set up of the Austrian hotline. The report of the event will be distributed soon and will be placed on the RAN website.

Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

Sharing expertise in Finland on preventing radicalisation, specifically in the areas of health and education

On 3-4 June, a group of RAN experts was involved in the review process of the Finnish National Action Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism. In a 2-day interactive meeting, the general Finnish approach to prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism was presented and discussed. Special attention was paid to the areas of education and health that have a crucial and growing role in prevention. Key recommendations focused on:

- building local awareness and resilience;
- partnering with parents and communities to avoid labelling and to lift taboos;
- empowering first-line practitioners through training;
- developing local, regional and national networks that carry responsibility and ownership for implementing prevention policies.

RAN Steering Committee (SC) discussed the RAN Collection and RAN Centre of Excellence

The RAN Steering Committee (SC) came together on 17 June to discuss the state of play of the RAN activities in year 3-4. The Commission's new [European Agenda on Security](#) was discussed, in which the RAN is mentioned as a network that '*enables the exchange of experience and practices facilitating early detection of radicalisation and the design of preventive and disengagement strategies at local level*'. The next step for RAN will be the RAN Centre of Excellence (CoE), which will '*add a new practical dimension to the cooperation between stakeholders on anti-radicalisation*'. The updated RAN Collection of Approaches and Practices was also presented and discussed. Over the summer, last additions will be made and the new Collection will be published in September.

RAN POL organised a successful study visit in The Hague (NL)

On 30 June and 1 July, 18 policemen from different European countries visited The Hague for a study visit, organised by the district police and the municipality. The state of play in the Netherlands was presented the comprehensive approach to extremist jihadism, multicultural craftsmanship, ethnic profiling and community policing. In the evening, the group was invited to participate at the Iftar, where the project *Second Wave* was presented. The project is based on cooperation between a group of Dutch youngsters from the Schilderswijk neighbourhood and the Dutch community police, working on mutual understanding, investing in empowerment of youngsters and the neighbourhood and social inclusion. On day 2 of the programme, participants visited a mosque in Schilderswijk and Sabr, a Foundation that is supporting and empowering mothers. In the local police station, the multi agency Safety House structure in the Netherlands was presented, which provides personalised, tailor made approaches that traditionally works on crime and now also deals with radicalisation. The programme provided many opportunities for interaction with local community policemen, youngsters and partners. The RAN POL delegation was impressed by the role and added value of Dutch community police in preventing jihadism.

RAN Derad discussed final improvements for the Derad Declaration

In a plenary meeting on 2-3 July in Budapest, RAN Derad participants discussed the second version of the Derad Declaration of Good Practice. Some outcomes of these discussions concerned the structure of the document, the target audience and the definitions and terms used. Participants were asked beforehand to share some of their experiences or dilemmas, which led to the exchange of practices and methods. The RAN

Derad practitioners that were not present in Budapest will also provide their comments. Once the Declaration is finalised, it will be distributed among the participants and published on the RAN web site.

RAN@ brought together industry partners and CVE (counter violent extremism) practitioners in London

On the 7 July, 10 years after the 7/7 bombing in London, RAN@ organised a meeting to engage private sector partners, such as social media platforms and communication companies, in the counter-narrative challenge. Together with practitioners in the field of countering and preventing violent extremism, they discussed the further development of four existing counter-narrative initiatives online, offline and through strong communication strategies. The term *counter-narrative* was approached with some critique as it was commonly agreed that the word 'counter' makes it seem that extremists have ownership of the strongest narrative which others need to reject. Participants preferred talking about alternative or competitive narratives. The input of the private sector partners led to interesting new and creative ideas for CVE practitioners. Similarly, the knowledge and experience of CVE practitioners shed light on the complexities surrounding extremist thinking and propaganda.

Upcoming Activities

Finalising RAN P&P 'lessons learned' paper in September

On 2-3 September 2015, core members and participants of RAN P&P will come together in Barcelona to finalise an overview paper of lessons learned since the beginning of the RAN. The group will also reflect on future topics and trends in the area of preventing and managing radicalisation in a prison and probation setting. As a third element, time will be spent on the topic of reintegration of convicted terrorists. A growing number of Foreign Fighters will come into prison, and will be released after a certain period, which poses new challenges. RAN P&P wants to explore existing knowledge and experience in this area and formulate remaining questions and dilemmas.

RAN Expertise in Austria to strengthen cooperation between professionals

On 3 September 2015, experts from the RAN will contribute to a conference organised by the Austrian Ministry of Interior. The objectives of this RAN Member State support are to help establish cooperation among Austrian practitioners who are working on radicalisation / with radicalised people. The focus will be on prevention measures, multi-agency approaches, the exchange of knowledge and transferring of skills.

On 4 September RAN@ will chair a preparatory meeting on counter-narratives

To prepare for and contribute to, an IT Forum workshop on counter-narratives that will be organised in the fall, the RAN@ working group will be in the lead to gather the different insights gathered throughout RAN on online counter-narratives, testimonies etc. This preparatory meeting takes place on 4 September 2015 in London, and will involve working group leaders and practitioners from the RAN INT/EXT, RAN Derad, RAN Prevent and RAN VVT working groups. The output of this meeting will be a deliverable (e.g. a 'declaration' or other type of insights and guidelines document) which can feed into the IT Forum workshop.

RAN Prevent will rethink radicalisation and preventing radicalisation

On 15-16 September in Utrecht (NL), RAN Prevent will discuss the guiding principles on how to deal with the growing fear, tensions and hatred in society, and restore trust between and within communities to prevent reciprocal radicalisation. How can we

bridge the existing gap between authorities and communities? How can we really stimulate engagement with parents and communities? It seems even talking about the prevention of radicalisation unintentionally stigmatises and polarises communities. In the meeting practitioners will search for local solutions with an inclusive perspective, and work towards formulating practical policy recommendations to local authorities and municipalities.

Seventh RAN Train-the-Trainer workshop will be delivered in the Czech Republic

On 23-24 September 2015 in Prague, the seventh RAN Train-the-Trainer workshop will be delivered to members of nationwide teams for posttraumatic intervention care. These teams consist of police and fire rescue psychologists, who support first line police officers and fire-fighters in their daily work and take care of victims. The training enlarges the awareness of practitioners on radicalisation and shows what different practitioners can do to recognise, share information, prevent and counter radicalisation. The training will specifically focus on identifying and preventing lone actors. Just as the other RAN Train-the-Trainer workshops, the training is designed to enable participants to feel comfortable to deliver a workshop themselves.

RAN VVT will combine lessons learned in handbook for victim organisations

On 24-25 September 2015, participants of RAN VVT will come together in Madrid to create and finalise a handbook for victim organisations. This handbook is based on lessons learned and recommendations collected since the start of the RAN VVT working group. During the meeting, participants will formulate additional input for the handbook.

RAN Health: Letter of Intent to clearly define role of the Health sector

The aim of the last RAN Health meeting before the start of the RAN Centre of Excellence is to draft a final document: a Letter of Intent. This document will define the role of the health sector, lessons learned, policy recommendations and recommendations for the next RAN Centre of Excellence. Participants of RAN Health will come together on 29 September 2015 in Brussels to finalise this Letter of Intent.

RAN Steering Committee to discuss the transition to the RAN Centre of Excellence

The next Steering Committee meeting, foreseen on 30 September 2015 in Brussels, will focus on the transition to the RAN Centre of Excellence, which is planned to enter into force the day after.

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. On 4 June RAN was invited to the kick-off a meeting of the '*Cities Strong: Mayors Against Violent Extremism (C.A.V.E.) Network*' network in Oslo, gathering representatives from European cities in preparation for a formal launch at the upcoming summit in New York in September. As this global network aims to strengthen local preventive work to counter radicalisation and violent extremism, RAN was asked to help coordinate efforts with its expertise. The RAN also shared its knowledge and practices on Foreign Fighters at the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Expert Conference entitled *Countering the Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters*, on 30 June-1 July in Vienna.

RAN Calendar

September

RAN P&P

Composing the lessons learned paper

Date and location: 2-3 September, Barcelona (ES)

RAN Expertise for Austria

Date and location: 3 September, Vienna (AT)

RAN @

Preparatory meeting on counter-narratives

Date and location: 4 September, London (UK)

RAN Prevent

Guidelines to prevent reciprocal radicalisation

Date and location: 15-16 Sept, Utrecht (NL)

RAN Train-the-trainer in Czech Republic

Date and location: 23-24 September, Prague (CZ)

RAN VVT

Handbook for Victim Organisations

Date and location: 24-25 September, Madrid (ES)

RAN Health

Finalising a Letter of Intent

Date and location: 29 September, Brussels (BE)

RAN SC

Date and location: 30 September, Brussels (BE)

RAN Collection 2015 online on the 1st of September

As already communicated in Update 21, the [RAN Collection of approaches and practices](#) is currently being updated. 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. The RAN Collection will be fully updated and online on the 1st of September 2015.

RAN first-liners invited to provide input for piloting phase of IMPACT Europe

RAN first-liners are invited to visit www.impacteurope.eu and www.twitter.com/impacteurope to learn more about the ways they can provide input during the piloting phase of the IMPACT Europe evaluation toolkit, which will be launched early 2016. Funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme, IMPACT Europe aims to help practitioners evaluate their activities countering violent radicalisation and to build good practices into the design of future activities. Towards this end, IMPACT Europe currently develops an online evaluation toolkit, which is based on a state-of-the-art knowledge database on radicalisation factors, existing counter violent radicalisation interventions, and approaches to evaluate these interventions.

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