

February 2016

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with some 2 000 other people, because 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 to colleagues and invite them to [subscribe](#).

Table of Contents

- RAN activities since the last RAN Update
- Upcoming RAN activities
- Call for academics
- Call for practitioners
- Dissemination of RAN lessons at external events
- Extra support available for member states
- Papers published
- Other news
- RAN Calendar
- Contact details

RAN activities since the last RAN Update

RAN study visit to Paris prisons

Understanding prison regimes and in particular current French counter-radicalisation and deradicalisation/disengagement practices in prison settings was the aspiration behind the study visit. A group of 17 practitioners from 11 EU Member States visited two prisons in the region of Paris - the Maison d'Arrêt de Fresnes and the Maison d'Arrêt d'Osny-Val-d'Oise. The latter began a disengagement and prevention programme in January 2015. The programme resembles a citizenship programme and is designed to both destigmatise and create an open and safe place for dialogue. In January 2016, the prison also started using separate units for those charged with or convicted of terrorist activities. The Maison d'Arrêt de Fresnes created a special unit for radicalised offenders in late 2014. The unit will be further developed as part of a wider approach to dealing with (potentially) radicalised offenders that will get underway shortly. A specific programme for a select group of radicalised offenders is also being put in place there. The visit took place on 20-21 January.

RAN H&SC: how to identify and deal with potential lone actors

Central to the meeting was a discussion and comparison of approaches across Europe to identifying and dealing with lone actors. The meeting in Zagreb on 27-28 January was the first for the RAN Health and Social Care (H&SC) working group. The meeting drew three important conclusions:

- The majority of research have found a clear link between lone actors of terrorism and mental health issues (this can range from a clinically diagnosed mental health disorder to general indications of mental health problems).
- Several countries have developed (or are developing) strategies that involve the health and social care sectors in preventing radicalisation, via capacity-building, helping professionals recognise signs of radicalisation, and equipping them to support vulnerable individuals.
- Many multi-agency approaches using some form of risk assessment are in place, operating at regional and local levels. Further work is needed on a) identifying people falling 'under the radar', b) the risk types that should take priority, and c) the types of intervention that are most effective at preventing individuals at risk from committing violent acts.

RAN YF&C: kick-off meeting on mission, topics and deliverables

Covering three separate but overlapping topics (youth, families and communities), creates certain challenges for RAN YF&C. The working group's first meeting in Munich (DE) on 28 January 2016 agreed on future event topics to cover 'Youth culture as topic and tool', 'Empowering communities' and 'Gaining access to families'. One of the working group's challenge will be to cross fertilise with other working groups, like RAN EDU, LOCAL and C&N. Participants agreed that finding and disseminating best practices should remain a priority, but that identifying why and how they work is also important.

RAN C&N: brainstorming on an alternative action campaign

Having set itself the goal of developing an EU-wide alternative narrative and overarching action campaign, the RAN C&N Working Group has been brainstorming on theme, message, target group and credible voices. Some 15 WG participants were joined by Facebook and Twitter representatives on 8-9 February to thrash out ideas that will now be further developed. The campaign will function as an umbrella for a wide range of local initiatives providing alternative narratives or alternative actions. The first concepts will be presented around the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism on 11 March, and will ask the RAN network to complement it with local initiatives.

Study Visit: Think Globally, Act Locally

RAN's message "local approaches are at the forefront of preventing radicalisation" was underlined by the Dutch Minister for Justice and the Dutch National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism at the Think Globally, Act Locally conference on countering radicalisation on a local level on 1-2 February. The Amsterdam (NL) conference was organised by the Dutch EU Presidency in cooperation with the RAN CoE and took on a particular 'RAN style'. The conference was interactive, focusing on exchanging ideas, practices and challenges. In total, more than 100 national and local strategists, practitioners and academics shared their experiences and challenges on countering radicalisation at a local level. Many thanks to 25 RAN practitioners who participated, sharing expertise and great enthusiasm during the conference.

Upcoming RAN activities

Kick-off meeting RAN LOCAL: challenges in creating local networks

Enhancing local capacities to deal with radicalisation through multi-agency structures will be at the heart of the Working Group RAN LOCAL's first meeting on 22-23 February 2016. Working Group participants are all involved in coordinating - at a local or regional level - initiatives to prevent radicalisation. This meeting will also provide participants an opportunity to experience how Rotterdam tackles radicalisation. The meeting will

address the questions: What do you need? Who is best-placed to coordinate these networks? What is the role of the local authorities? What are the challenges and how can they be addressed?

RAN EDU investigates training modules for empowering teachers

Teachers play a key role in the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism. Teachers from 19 EU Member States will gather in Gothenburg (SE) on 24 and 25 February. Four training programmes will be peer reviewed, and participants will elaborate how they can be implemented in their own countries.

RAN P&P: multi-agency cooperation in prison and probation work

What does a multi-agency structure look like from the prison and probation perspective? How can it contribute to efforts to deal with radicalised offenders? What are the challenges to developing partnerships? RAN P&P will gather a select group of practitioners from different European countries in Stockholm on 24-25 February to discuss these questions. Particular focus will be given to the Swedish approach.

RAN EXIT: methodologies in EXIT work

Exit work counts a wide range of approaches. But a consensus on a methodological minimum and a framework for exit interventions that takes new trends and current challenges into account is needed. Furthermore, the methodological minimum requirements for an exit intervention to be defined as an exit programme/project will be addressed at the RAN EXIT Working Group on 15-16 March in London (UK). The basic principles of methodology will be developed with 20 participants working daily in the field of de-radicalisation and disengagement.

RAN RVT: European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism

11 March 2016 will mark the 12th European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism. The EU has devoted this day to remembering all victims of terrorism in Europe and beyond, as it marks the anniversary of the Madrid train bombings that killed 193 persons commuting to work in 2004. To commemorate this important event, the RAN CoE Working Group Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism (RVT) is organising - with the support of the European Commission - an event in Brussels. Victims, victims' families, victims' associations, students and high-level European representatives will attend, showing support and paying tribute to all victims of terrorism in Europe and elsewhere in the world. They will also listen to testimonies from victims from recent and past events.

Call for academics: EU RAN Research Seminar

EU RAN Research Seminar 12-13 April Vienna - 30 spots left for academics

The aim of the research seminar is to bridge the gap between research available on the prevention of radicalisation and the needs of practitioners. Both the latest research findings as well as gaps in research will be analysed. The seminar will host 60 participants and there are 30 spots left for academics and/or doctoral students. Attendance is by application only. If you are interested in attending, please submit your application to the RAN Centre of Excellence. Send two relevant publications, a short motivational text explaining your reasons for wishing to attend, and mention [the Working Group](#) to which your research is related. Please contact Marjolein Keltjens (m.keltjens@radaradvies.nl) by 22 February at the latest.

Call for practitioners

Call for local coordinators: prevention of radicalisation for RAN Local

One of the core RAN messages is: local is key. Often the coordination of practitioners involved in countering violent extremism and multi-agency work is carried out by local governments. Their employees are the link between practitioners' organisations, ranging from NGOs and civil society to schools, police, and national governments. These coordinators (from big cities or small towns, but also from regional or other sub-national authorities) are the ideal participants for RAN LOCAL. The RAN Local Working Group is looking for participants from all EU countries that fit this profile and would particularly encourage participants from Eastern and Southern Europe to send in applications. Please contact Pomme Woltman (p.woltman@radaradvies.nl) if you are interested in (attending the meetings of) this Working Group.

Call for social workers and policy makers for RAN H&SC

The Health and Social Care sector plays an important role in the prevention of violent extremism. The key challenge for practitioners is to interpret signs of radicalisation and help those individuals potentially at risk of being radicalised. On a policy making level, professionals are finding ways to raise awareness around radicalisation. The objectives of the RAN Health and Social Care (H&SC) working group are to 1) raise awareness of radicalisation leading to violent extremism in these sectors, 2) establish an effective network of health and social care practitioners across the EU Member States, 3) empower practitioners across the EU to support vulnerable individuals at risk of being recruited into violent extremism, 4) focus on effective awareness-raising strategies and knowledge transfer, and 5) promote partnership (multi-agency) working within Member States. RAN H&SC is looking for both social workers and policy makers from all EU countries and would particularly like to encourage participants from Eastern and Southern Europe to apply. Please contact Floor Kroft (f.kroft@radaradvies.nl) with names, organisations and contact details of relevant practitioners.

Dissemination of RAN lessons at external events

RAN presented to EU's Justice and Home Affairs Council

The 25 January Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting between ministers included a session on prevent and local approaches to radicalisation. The ministerial speeches included appraisal of the selection of best practices by RAN. Commissioner Dimitri Avramopoulos introduced Omar Ramadan, head of the RAN Centre of Excellence, to the ministers, and highlighted how the network has now increased to some 2 000 practitioners. Omar highlighted that RAN first and foremost arranges for practitioners, such as teachers, community police officers and health workers, to peer review each others' prevent efforts. He referred to the Belgian suburb of Vilvoorde, where practitioners successfully liaise with the parents of radicalising young people, as exemplary. After exploring the approach within RAN, other municipalities were equipped to adopt and adapt parts of it. Omar also announced that the European Commission has budgeted for 20 RAN support activities for EU Member States for 2016. (The full speech can be [found here](#)). The chair and Dutch minister, Ard van der Steur, highlighted the usefulness of this support. He also flagged the forthcoming expert meeting on local approaches, co-organised by the Dutch Presidency and the RAN Centre of Excellence.

RAN members present at other external events

Local groups working to counter radicalisation and extremism are important for connecting stakeholders working on CVE, sharing insights from RAN and information on CVE activities and funding opportunities, designing projects, as well as preparing a

national network of local working groups for practitioners. RAN expert Luca Guglieminetti presented RAN at the launch of a local working group on Radicalisation and CVE in Milan (IT).

Foreign fighter issues are almost non-existent in Portugal. However the country does have experience in coping with polarisation and building resilience in society. Magnus Ranstorp presented at a conference for security officials, organised by the Portuguese National Defence Institute. His presentation addressed the right approach to dealing with radicalisation and violent extremism in the 21st century.

Raising awareness and sharing knowledge on RAN's achievements was key in the first meeting of the steering committee of the project 'FIRST LINE Practitioners Dealing with Radicalization Issues - Awareness Raising and Encouraging Capacity Building in the Western Balkans. Marije Meines attended as RAN expert on 18 January in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Extra support available for Member States

National authorities can apply for customised RAN support in their Member State

Since mid-2014, no less than 19 RAN support deliveries, such as trainings, workshops and counselling, were received by EU Member States. The Commission has budgeted for an additional 20 deliveries of such support in 2016 which the RAN CoE can deliver without Member State funding on a specific question or topic. Member States interested in such support should e-mail ran@radaradvies.nl, and are advised to do so swiftly to allow for proper planning. More information can be found in [this leaflet](#).

Papers published

RAN Issue Paper on the root causes of violent extremism.

There are multiple ways to examine the root causes of violent extremism. There is no single cause or pathway, but a wide array of factors on the macro-, meso-, and micro levels. This brief issue paper provides a summary of 'root causes' leading to violent extremism. Violent extremism can be conceptualised as a kaleidoscope of factors, creating infinite individual combinations. There are some basic primary colours that create complex interlocking combinations: 1) individual socio-psychological factors, 2) social factors, 3) political factors, 4) ideological and religious dimensions, 5) the role of culture and identity issues, 6) trauma and other trigger mechanisms. An additional three factors are a motor for radicalisation: 7) group dynamics, 8) radicalisers/groomers and 9) the role of social media. It is the combined interplay of some of these factors that can cause violent extremism. [Read the issue paper here](#).

Other news

Update of the RAN Collection

The RAN Collection of practices and approaches is an evolving document that is updated every quarter. Find the new, updated version of the Collection, including eight new practices [online now](#).

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RAN Calendar

February 2016	March/April 2016
<p>RAN LOCAL <i>Kick-off meeting with focus on local networks</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 22-23 February, Rotterdam (NL)</p> <p>RAN P&P <u>Date and location:</u> 24-25 February, Stockholm (SE)</p> <p>RAN EDU <i>Empowering educators and supporting teachers</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 24-25 February, Goteborg (SE)</p>	<p>REMEMBRANCE DAY <i>Remembrance Day for the Victims of Terrorism</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 11 March, Brussels (BE)</p> <p>RAN EXIT <i>15-16 March, Develop consent in a methodological minimum and framework for EXIT interventions</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 15-16 March, London (UK)</p> <p>STEERING COMMITTEE <i>Meeting of all Working Group leaders</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 29 March, Brussels (BE)</p> <p>THEMATIC EVENT <i>The Refugee and Migrant Crisis and challenges to preventing further polarisation, recruitment and radicalisation.</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 14 April, Vienna (AT)</p>

Often, many more people register their interest in an event than can be accommodated. So that expectations are realistic, please note that the Working Group leaders decide who will be invited to attend RAN WG meetings. When selecting participants (depending on the meeting topic), division of Member States, type of expertise, contributions in meetings, etc. will be taken into consideration. Additionally, please note that only one person per organisation can be invited.

Contact details

The RAN Centre of Excellence is implemented by RadarEurope, which is a subsidiary of the RadarGroup:

RAN Centre of Excellence
 Veemarkt 83
 NL - 1019 DB Amsterdam
 The Netherlands
 +31 (0)20 463 50 50 (office)
RAN@radaradvies.nl

Follow the RAN on Twitter via [@RANEurope](https://twitter.com/RANEurope)

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