

November 2016

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with some 2 700 other people, because you have participated in a RAN working group activity, or 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
- Other news
- Publications
- RAN Calendar
- Contact details

RAN activities since the last RAN Update

RAN C&N: jihadist propaganda and how to counter it (online)

Jihadist groups use a range of communication techniques to legitimise their actions, to raise fear and recruit foreign fighters. On 3-4 October, researchers, practitioners and representatives from various communication companies gathered in Amsterdam to discuss campaigns targeting foreign fighters. As Daesh is experiencing territorial losses, their propaganda seems to be shifting away from a victorious narrative celebrating the so-called caliphate towards promoting a resistance mentality. And although the number of recruits is dropping, the defeat of Daesh does not mean the defeat of an ideology. The working group developed some recommendations for counter-narratives:

- Propaganda only works because it addresses a root cause for radicalisation. It is therefore vital to listen to a group at risk of recruitment and address issues of stigmatisation, discrimination, islamophobia and polarisation.
- Be aware of the Werther-effect and putting ideas into people's minds. For example, research shows a relationship between media coverage on mass shootings and subsequent real actions.
- Use online testing to identify what your target audience is searching for (e.g. "want to join IS?") and use the re-direct method to steer them to constructive materials e.g. websites offering psychological support.
- Expose people to ideas and thoughts from outside of their own environment. Engagement with people vulnerable to propaganda is key to breaking the cycle of propaganda.

Member State workshop: local approaches

Efforts to prevent radicalisation are most effective when they are implemented directly where individuals at risk live. To do so, local authorities need support from national authorities. Participants identified specific needs, such as help to coordinate communication flows, central support for sharing knowledge, legislation for sharing information, development of a national strategy on integration and inclusion, and flexible and sustainable financial and political support. These were the conclusions of two one-day workshops in Vienna on 12-13 October. Discussions were aided by the results of a survey conducted by the RAN local working group. Participants also discussed which elements of the CVE approach are best managed at national level, and which at local level.

RAN POL and LOCAL joint event: local solutions and local approaches - who is in charge?

Police and local authorities can both be responsible for the prevention of radicalisation. However, who takes the lead can differ. In general, the police take the lead in urgent cases regarding public safety, while it is primarily local authorities that reach out to schools or social services. At the joint meeting in Berlin on 20-21 October, police and local professionals discussed devising a process, protocol or system that makes clear what both parties should expect from each other and sets out a shared vision. Participants agreed that sharing a common vision is the basis for cooperation.

RAN P&P: study visit to Venice prison

The Italian penitentiary system takes two approaches to ensuring the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism: security and treatment. While both are used in parallel, they do not directly influence each other. On 26-27 October the RAN P&P Working Group visited Venice and Padua to familiarise themselves with these strategies to prevent and counter radicalisation in prison and probation environments. On security, the Italian authorities explained how inmates vulnerable to radicalisation are observed, and how information is collected at central level, in Rome. Afterwards the Working Group headed to the penitentiary institute in Padua to learn more about the treatment of offenders. One of the fundamental principles of the system is that treatment opportunities are equal for every inmate. The Working Group had the opportunity to see this program in action and to meet detainees during their daily work activities. Offenders considered vulnerable to radicalisation are offered the opportunity to participate in these programmes with no particular restrictions. Offenders of terrorist (-related) crimes are placed in special sections to avoid proselytism or linkages with organised crime. With the exception of those followed under the security regime, the treatment opportunities for these offenders are the same as those for other types of offenders.

RAN Editorial Board: a closer match between practitioners' needs and academic support

Although RAN is mainly a practitioner network, academics also play an important role. On 27 October, the Editorial Board meeting took place in Zagreb; members discussed trends and policy priorities for 2017, their role, their support to the RAN Working Groups and possible activities for 2017. The Board is formulating ways for academics to support practitioners more closely with evidence-based methods, evaluation and external perspectives on prevention practice.

Other news

#OSCEMED: facing security challenges and enhancing opportunities

Floor Kroft (RAN CoE) and Werner Prinzjakowitch (RAN YF&C co-chair) represented RAN during the OSCE Mediterranean conference. They presented some outcomes from the RAN Joint event

on [Involving young people](#) in June, such as the importance of involving young people in the prevention of radicalisation, and empowering them to take an active role. They are the credible voices for their peers and understand the way young people look at the world, and can help improve the effectiveness and outreach of (online) interventions. A #UnitedCVE workshop for young people was organised to discuss recommendations for policy-makers. At this side event, RAN was explained in more detail (showcasing the RAN explainer video) and the network was discussed as a best practice for other regions.

Train-the-trainer in Malta

The training session was open to trainers from prisons, police forces and probation services as well as professionals working with migrants and refugees. The participants appreciated the focus on vulnerable people and those at the beginning the process of radicalisation. Participants reported finding the training very relevant for their line of work and the challenges Malta faces. The training material will be used within a new national training programmes. RAN CoE trainer Steven Lenos delivered the training, together with Prevent coordinator William Baldet (UK).

New publications

RAN produces papers on a variety of topics every month, while institutions within our network are also publishing interesting work. From now on, we will highlight new publications in each Update. If you are interested in seeing your publication on this list, please contact the RAN team via ran@radaradvies.nl.

- The first RAN [explainer video](#) was launched. The video explains what radicalisation actually is, and the work that RAN is doing across Europe to counter it.
- This month Hedayah launched its online [counter-narrative library](#): content, toolkits and best practices to counter extremist narratives.

RAN Calendar

December 2016	
RAN EDU <i>The school needs partners</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 1 December, Madrid (ES)	RAN C&N <i>One-on-one interventions online</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 14-15 December, Berlin (DE)
RAN LOCAL <i>Cooperating with religious organisations and communities</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 8 December, Brussels (BE)	RAN POL <i>Best practices in inter-agency cooperation</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 21 December, Leiden/Utrecht (NL)
RAN H&SC <i>Refugee resilience</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 6-7 December Vienna (AT)	

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

Would you like more frequent updates on RAN's activities? Get access to all public RAN papers as they are released, other RAN news and thought-provoking articles on the radicalisation process by following RAN on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [YouTube](#).

Website: ec.europa.eu/ran