

December 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 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](#).

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RAN activities since the last RAN Update

French study visit: inter-agency cooperation

The 21-22 November study visit was geared towards increasing understanding of multi-agency structures in France, both at national and local level. The RAN delegation was brought up to date on France's action plan for countering violent radical jihadism, and the complex but comprehensive network of players involved and structures in place. These include a national database of radicalised individuals, an assistance hotline for individuals and families, and prefect and security services, which coordinate follow-up prevention work and report signals of radicalisation. Presentations also covered: the role of, and challenges faced by, a Muslim chaplain in French prisons; the Web Walkers project (on alternative narratives and prevention of radicalisation on the internet); and social work carried out by an association active in local family support and prevention. The RAN delegation comprised 15 practitioners from 8 EU Member States.

RAN EDU: the school needs partners

Schools are willing to take on some responsibility for preventing radicalisation, and they are in a position to do so. But in some situations and for certain challenges, they need partners. Professionals from the education sector and practitioners from social work, youth and health care, the police, victim organisations, ministries for education, NGOs and local government gathered in Madrid to explore partnerships with schools at a 1 December Working Group meeting. Participants defined a broad range of partners, such as: parents, other schools and care professionals. They agreed upon the need for multi-agency cooperation, which works best if the common purpose is agreed, along with how to use information. To provide inspiration,

partnerships from three countries were presented: the municipality of Vilvoorde and Brussels (BE), Tower Hamlets (UK) and the Schools, Social Services and Police initiative (DK).

RAN H&SC: refugee resilience

Refugees can be vulnerable to radicalisation and recruitment given their past (traumatic) experiences and continuous exposure to difficult situations, including potential hostility to their arrival within their host country. Building resilience against radicalisation and violent extremism among vulnerable (young) refugees was the focus of the RAN H&SC working group meeting on 6-7 December in Vienna. Participants discussed challenges as well as effective tools for each of the four specific 'risk areas' identified: the presence of recruiters, trauma/mental health issues, refugee centre living conditions, and host society reactions. Attendees from the mental health sector included psychiatrists experienced in the consequences of severe trauma, while social workers working daily on refugee support also attended the meeting.

RAN LOCAL: cooperating with religious organisations and communities

Many municipalities are keen to include religious organisations in their local approach to preventing radicalisation, but doing so comes with dilemmas. The cooperation between local authorities and religious organisation/communities was the main focus of the RAN LOCAL meeting on 8 December in Brussels. The event addressed four themes:

1. credibility of religious organisations;
2. how to choose the 'right' religious organisations;
3. how to start interreligious dialogue and why;
4. how to be an intermediary between local authorities and religious organisations.

Practitioners shared tips on the institutional aspects of choosing the right local partner. For example, providing transparency on the procedures for subsidies and acknowledging the group as a partner are important, as is knowing how to stimulate dialogue between the municipality and the religious organisation. Participants also shared some 'don'ts': specific skills are needed in the prevention of radicalisation, and these are not to be confused with religious authority.

RAN C&N: one-to-one digital interventions

Direct one-to-one online messaging is an essential part of extremist propaganda and outreach. In Berlin on 14-15 December 2016, the RAN C&N Working Group discussed how this technique can be used to prevent and counter radicalisation. The meeting showcased examples of one-on-one interventions targeting online profiles believed to be at high risk of violent extremism, and illustrated how an algorithm can be used to identify 'hard-end' individuals. The meeting also discussed preventative one-to-one online youth and police work. The examples led to a process map with general guidelines for digital one-to-one interventions, including how to measure impact.

RAN P&P: plenary meeting

On 14-15 December, RAN P&P had its yearly plenary meeting. Practitioners who have participated in previous meetings were invited to help formulate key lessons learned. In doing so, the meeting touched upon topics such as training for prison and probation staff, interventions, risk assessment and prison regimes. The expected return of higher numbers of foreign terrorist fighters to Europe was also recognised as one of the main challenges for the prison and probation systems in the coming year. The input collected throughout the meeting will also feed into the update of the P&P Working Paper which will be ready in its new version by

the end of January 2017. Partly hosted by the Latvian Ministry of Justice, of the event also included a presentation on Latvia's prison and probation systems in relation to radicalisation.

Upcoming RAN activities

Study visit to Bulgaria

The visit will focus on Bulgaria's new counter-radicalisation strategy and challenges for policy-makers and practitioners. It will also delve into developing risk indicators and monitoring tools for practitioners, designing training for policy officers, the role of schools in early prevention and addressing radicalisation in prisons. RAN will bring together practitioners from around Europe to specifically discuss challenges in south-east Europe during the 16-17 January event.

Save-the-date

- **RAN YF&C** and **RAN H&SC** will have their first joint meeting on 2-3 February to discuss the importance of family support.
- **RAN EXIT** will continue developing the Exit Academy during its first 2017 meeting on 13-14 February.
- **RAN C&N** will meet on 13-14 February to discuss designing and evaluating counter- and alternative narrative campaigns.
- **RAN LOCAL** will soon announce in the exact date of its February meeting. This and other RAN Working Group activities will be announced in Update 36 in early 2017.

Call for RAN C&N chair

Register your interest

The RAN Communication and Narratives (RAN C&N) working group is looking for a new co-chair, to lead the Working Group alongside Mr Alexander Ritzmann. The group focuses on the delivery of both on- and offline communication that offers alternatives or that counters extremist propaganda and/or challenges extremist ideas. A working group leader helps prepare working group meetings and the yearly plan. She or he maps and selects members and participants, and encourages them to contribute to the working group. Together, the leaders also develop papers, identify best practices and formulate policy recommendations. The CoE therefore invites professionals engaged in delivering online and/or offline communication aimed at preventing radicalisation to register their interest in co-chairing this working group via e-mail (Marije Meines, applications@radareurope.nl) before Friday 13 January 2017.

Find the [mission statement of RAN C&N](#) here.

Find the [call to register and the application form](#) here.

Other news

Joint RAN - IMPACT meeting

IMPACT Europe is an EU-funded project which aims to fill the knowledge and understanding gap on what works in tackling violent radicalisation. Specifically, the project helps front-line workers, policy-makers, and others operating in the field of countering radicalisation and violent extremism to answer questions on evaluation. Its interactive evaluation Toolkit draws on state-

of-the-art databases to help professionals design and implement evaluations of their programmes.

Within the RAN community there is a constant need for more knowledge and understanding of what works and what doesn't work with regards to practices aimed at tackling violent radicalisation. This resulted in the first RAN - IMPACT joint workshop on evaluation which included presentations from 10 countries on the subject of prison and probation. 'Theories of change' (pathway for a programme to cause impact) were developed following the presentations, and participants designed an evaluation plan. These exercises underlined the need to:

- have practitioner-friendly evaluation tools;
- develop evaluation plans as early as possible (sometimes even before the intervention begins);
- create opportunities for sharing of knowledge and assumptions about how interventions work and deliver results;
- not only focus on the impact of interventions, but also on the process of how the desired change will happen.

Awareness and action training in Hungary

RAN CoE trainer Steven Lenos delivered a train-the-trainer workshop in Budapest on 24-25 November, together with expert Peter Walmsley. Participants included professionals from police departments, intelligence agencies, NGOs and research institutes. The training contributed to network capacity building in Hungary and will result in Hungarian training programmes preventing extremism.

Marketing training at Facebook

Facebook organised training for NGOs on 1-2 December in Brussels. Liang de Beer from the RAN CoE attended to share insights on counter-narrative campaigns with the various NGOs present. The course covered the five steps involved in designing an effective campaign: knowing your audience, articulating the behavioural change you want them to make, producing the content, delivering the campaign and carrying out an evaluation. The training emphasised the importance of an integrated communications strategy for campaigns, even on a budget.

EU Internet Forum

The Civil Society Empowerment Program (CSEP) was launched during the second EU Internet Forum on 8 December. The CSEP will aim at empowering practitioners in Europe to provide credible alternative narratives offline. RAN will partner up with social media companies to address radicalisation online. The CSEP project will train over 400 civil society partners on providing alternative narratives on multiple online platforms. Both EU Commissioners for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship (Dimitris Avramopoulos) and for the Security Union (Julian King) were present at the launch.

New publications

RAN produces papers on a variety of topics every month, while institutions within our network also publish interesting work. When relevant, we 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.

- RAN [Issue Paper on child returnees](#): the paper looks at how practitioners should respond to children returning or coming to Europe from Daesh-held territories.
- The RAN Community has also produced an [Issue Paper on growing polarisation](#) in European society.
- This Issue Paper looks at the challenges posed by [foreign fighter returnees](#) and reintegration issues.
- A policy paper on [developing a local prevent framework](#) and guiding principles was published in November.
- The Institute for Strategic Dialogue recently published a handbook on measuring, monitoring and evaluating counter-narrative campaigns. Find their latest publications and other handbooks on counter-narratives [on their website](#).
- An updated version of the [RAN Collection of best practices](#) will be published in early 2017. It will be announced via this newsletter and social media channels.

Contact details

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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