

March 2017

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with some 3 000 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](#).

Table of Contents

- RAN activities since the last RAN Update
- Upcoming RAN activities
- Other news
- Publications
- RAN Calendar
- Contact details

RAN activities since the last RAN Update

Joint event RAN H&SC and YF&C: Supporting families and safeguarding children

Families are a key factor in building resilience and are therefore partners in preventing radicalisation and contributing to a safe and secure society. On 2-3 February, both the RAN H&SC and the RAN YF&C working groups came together in Nice to discuss how to support families and safeguard children. Practitioners shared their working methods for working with young children (age 0-12), teenagers (age 12-18), young adults (age 18-25) and families. The outcome of the exchange will feed into a user-friendly toolkit that aims to support and offer guidance to policy-makers.

RAN C&N: measuring the impact of your campaign

Although evaluation is not often the first thing you think of when launching a campaign, it should be on the priority list together with message and target audience. This was the key lesson to come out of February's RAN C&N meeting. Monitoring and measuring will improve your campaign and increase the impact. Tips & tricks and best practices will be collected in a practice-oriented ex-post paper.

Listen to our [short podcast](#) from this meeting.

RAN EXIT: The Exit Academy

RAN's first 'Exit Academy' took place in Berlin on 13-14 February. Exit programmes can play an important role in assisting those who want to leave a radical movement or turn away from radical thoughts. Some of the EU's most experienced exit organisations were on hand in Berlin to present their work. Practitioners who intend to or have (recently) set up an exit programme in

their country, were able to learn about the most crucial aspects of executing a successful intervention: Organisational structure, hiring staff, engaging with radicalised individuals, media and communication, safety aspects, privacy, quality measures and working with returnees. They also learned the complexity of the work; quality standards for methodology and staff requirements have yet to be agreed.

Steering Committee: priorities for 2017

The main focus at this first SC meeting of 2017 was on responses to returnees (for which tools and methods exist and are being further developed) and the start of the Civil Society Empowerment Programme (CSEP). Four roadmaps were discussed, all offering strategic guidance for RAN activities over the coming year: 1. responses to returnees 2. dealing with polarisation, 3. training first-line practitioners, 4. local approaches.

RAN P&P: core group meeting

Setting the agenda for 2017 - this was top priority for the core group members of RAN P&P in Vienna on 21-22 February. One of the topics on the agenda was the returnee challenge and how prison and probation staff are to deal with this group of offenders. Practitioners discussed and identified dilemmas and obstacles they face in this space.

RAN LOCAL: cooperation between schools and local authorities

Schools and teachers play a key part in local multi-agency networks, as they are in close contact with young people at risk of radicalisation. For interventions to be effective, schools need to work together with local authorities in a coordinated and smart way. The 22-23 February RAN LOCAL meeting in The Hague specifically focused on local resilience-building and multi-agency interventions.

Inspired by the presentation of the way Augsburg practitioners cooperated with schools in prevention matters, local coordinators and teachers shared useful tips and practices for building trust between local authorities and schools and between schools. Participants also worked on a case study, formulating possible intervention steps, such as building an overall picture of a youngster, organising regular one-on-one talks with him or her and seeking external help when needed.

RAN EDU: training programmes for schools

Teachers can be key figures in the lives of young people, and can help prevent violent radicalisation. But they need training to do so. What type of training should teachers receive? How can teachers be trained to discuss controversial issues? Which training programmes are 'nice-to-have', and which are vital? At the 1-2 March RAN EDU meeting in Helsinki, teacher trainers, teachers and head teachers worked on a draft of the RAN EDU Guide on Teacher Training. Besides specific training on understanding radicalisation, a need for teacher training focusing on specific skills for dealing with worrying radicalisation was also identified. How to teach controversial issues and other excellent teacher training approaches were presented at the meeting:

- UK government [E-learning for education](#).
- Teaching [controversial issues guide](#).
- [Extreme Dialogue](#) project website.

The RAN EDU Guide on Training will be published on our webpages soon. This document will help teachers, principals, schools and (local and national) authorities discuss and design training programmes. Different training modules were identified, like (de)polarisation training, critical thinking, and how to turn a school into a safe and democratic mini society.

RAN RVT: 13th European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism

On the 10th of March, the RVT Working Group together with the European Commission organised the ceremony commemorating the 13th European Remembrance Day for the Victims of Terrorism in Brussels. The event was attended by almost 200 participants including youngsters, relatives of victims and survivors of terrorist attacks, as well as Member States and political representatives. Commissioner for the Security Union, Julian King, and French President Hollande also attended the ceremony. Victims of recent attacks in Brussels, Nice and Berlin, gave their testimony. A survivor from London attack gave a powerful testimony on 'Living after an attack'. Youngsters from schools in Berlin and Brussels were interviewed and asked about their thoughts on the terrorist attacks that hit their cities. At the end of the morning ceremony, the same youngsters participated in a symbolic act, by hanging drawings made by children from different European schools on a tree.

Upcoming RAN activities

RAN YOUNG: the work of practitioners as seen by young people

Young people should be involved in the prevention of radicalisation and (violent) extremism, and empowered to take an active role. Professionals and practitioners should not only talk about young people, but also with them, and young people should have the opportunity to interact with each other on the topic. With this in mind, Commissioner Julian King announced the setting up of RAN YOUNG last November. On 28-29 March, a kick-off meeting will take place in Madrid. Around 45 young people, between the ages of 16 and 25, will discuss their views on the work of 1) community police officers 2) teachers 3) online content creators and 4) youth workers. Participants will formulate recommendations for these first-line practitioners as well as for policy-makers (local, national and European). Additionally, they will reflect on specific actions that could be taken in their own community (offline/online) after the meeting, thus creating a European movement.

RAN POL: returnees and the role of the police

Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters pose a growing challenge for police forces and other first-line practitioners. How should they deal with these returnees? How can the potential risk be assessed? What is role of the police in local exit programmes? How can brothers, sisters and peers be protected from potential influence or even recruitment? For the Düsseldorf meeting on 30-31 March, RAN POL will invite those with relevant experience from police departments, as well as those who need to prepare for returnees. The meeting will zoom in on how to best prepare local police forces for these tasks.

RAN study visit to Northern Ireland on resilient communities

Growing tension in society and polarisation have unfortunately become a daily reality in Europe. In Northern Ireland people have lived with these challenges for many years. The conflict between those wanting to stay in the United Kingdom and those wanting to be independent resulted in nationalist-extremism and violent attacks in Britain and Northern Ireland. RAN will organise a study visit to Northern Ireland on 25-26 April to learn from the Northern Ireland case. Since the 1990s society has been finding its way back to peace. How have they tried (and

succeeded) to bring communities back together? How have religion and religious leaders played a role in this? What went well and what would they do differently? How does their experience help reflect on the increasing polarisation in Europe that we are currently witnessing? These are a few of the key questions that will be addressed during this study visit. The visit will be interactive and will allow participants to visit organisations and projects that cooperate and engage with communities successfully.

Other news

New co-chair for RAN C&N

At the steering committee meeting in February, Jonathan Russell (Head of Policy at Quilliam Foundation) was appointed co-chair of the RAN C&N working group. He will work alongside Alexander Ritzmann in leading practitioners, developing papers, identifying best practices and formulating policy recommendations.

Aarhus conference: register now!

The city of Aarhus (DK), together with the Jutland Police and the Strong Cities Network, is hosting the international conference 'Building Resilience to Radicalisation and Violent Extremism II' on 17-19 May. Experts from around the world will share local and municipal practices. Registration is now possible on the [Aarhus website](#).

Register for Member State Support and Training sessions

The RAN CoE connects, develops and disseminates its expertise on radicalisation while fostering a dialogue between practitioners, policy-makers and academics. Member States are eligible to request support from the Ran CoE. This can be in the form of a RAN advisory team, a train-the-trainer course, or a workshop on a specific topic. Find more information on [Member State support](#) on our website.

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.

- A video was launched to highlight the [RAN Collection](#).
- Key issue paper on the [role of education](#), both schools and teachers, in prevention efforts.
- Paper on [the various approaches](#) to violent extremist offenders and prevention of radicalisation in prisons by the Ran P&P working group.

RAN Calendar

March 2017	April 2017
RAN YOUNG <i>Kick-off meeting</i> Date and location: 28-29 March, Madrid (ES)	RAN HS&C <i>Training sessions for social workers</i> Date and location: 11-12 April, Madrid (ES)

RAN POL <i>Returnees</i> Date and location: 30-31 March, Düsseldorf (DE)	RAN Study visit <i>Northern Ireland</i> Date and location: 25-26 April, Belfast (UK)
--	--

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