

May 2017

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with some 3 500 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

RAN H&SC: training for social and health care practitioners

Training needs for (mental) health and social care practitioners was the focus of the first HS&C meeting of 2017 on 11-12 April in Madrid. Participants discussed key challenges and lessons learnt across EU Member States, and shared ways in which to develop training sessions, while taking into account confidentiality. Views from Spain and Denmark, alongside input from trainers from the UK and the Netherlands, made for fruitful debates on the strengths and weaknesses of training programmes and the supporting role of training professionals in the sector. The returnee roadmap was also on the agenda as psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and other professionals could play pivotal roles in addressing the challenges surrounding returning foreign fighters.

RAN Study visit to Northern Ireland (Belfast, UK) on community engagement and building resilience

Polarisation and growing tensions have become a very real challenge in European society and are creating a breeding ground for radicalisation processes and conflict. How should we deal with this to prevent violent extremism? How can we create, and maintain, a cohesive and inclusive society? On 25 and 26 April, RAN led a study visit to Northern Ireland (Belfast, UK) to learn from the specific context there and paying particular attention to transferable lessons and the sharing of expertise and ideas. Some of the lessons learned are:

- issues should be addressed at local level, through a tailored approach;
- both policy-makers and practitioners should build broad and diverse social networks;
- tangible conflicts can be an opportunity to address underlying tensions;
- physical safe spaces can be used to bring groups together to build new experiences.

Training in Poland

Polish counter terrorist officers, law enforcement police and prevention police attended a train-the-trainer session delivered by the RAN Centre of Excellence. The RAN trainers were in Warsaw at the invitation of the Polish Police Headquarters, which has made crime prevention a no. 1 priority. The training showed that adopting a preventative approach would bridge gaps between different police departments. The training was intended to help the Polish police to be more effective in recognising and preventing radicalisation.

RAN C&N: dissemination strategies and building multi-platform online networks

When campaigning online, it is essential to know where your target audience can be found on the Internet. How do they use the different platforms? And how can we get inside the echo chambers and information bubbles? Every social media platform has its own characteristics. They work differently, appeal to different people and use different methods to target people. In Budapest on 3 and 4 May, the RAN C&N working group discussed how to use Internet platforms for counter and alternative narrative campaigns and to disseminate a message. The meeting looked into the specifics and differences around the 'Big 3' (Facebook, YouTube and Twitter) but also the options that smaller social media platforms offer. Discussions also addressed what to do with unintended or accidental audiences, and how to be smart with limited budget. The main lessons, plus tips and tricks learned, including those from other sectors such as journalism and the private sector, will be presented in the ex post paper on the meeting.

RAN POL and RAN EDU join forces to tackle polarisation

Polarisation is a daily challenge for police and schools. The police are confronted with a surge in left and right-wing extremism, and by tensions between ethnic minority groups. Schools are being confronted by tensions and conflicts, which could threaten the safe and democratic space that the school should provide. RAN POL and RAN EDU organised a joint meeting in Stockholm on 10-11 May to see how schools and police can play a role in recognising and tackling polarisation at an early stage. Participants discussed the Brandsma model that describes the unique nature of polarisation, as a false dichotomy built on identities, fuelled by 'us-and-them' communication. They learned from a Belgium school and the Dutch police how the model helped them not to step into the polarisation frame. 'Cooling down' is needed, and this can be done by investing in the middle ground. With mediating speech and behaviour. The scenarios and tactics discussed will feed into the RAN Cool Down Manual.

Upcoming RAN activities

RAN P&P and the Confederation of European Probation link up

The next P&P meeting on 22-23 May will be organised in close cooperation with the Confederation of European Probation (CEP). The Irish Probation Service in Dublin will host over 30 RAN practitioners for the meeting, which will see participants investigating whether probation methods for other high-risk groups (e.g. sex offenders) can be transferred to radicalised offenders. Training for probation staff and the role of probation in dealing with returnees will also be on the agenda.

Other news

RAN and IMPACT Europe workshop on evaluation

A recent RAN member state support workshop in Utrecht (NL), co-organised with IMPACT Europe, delved into evaluating PVE and CVE interventions. On the first day participants from 13 member states discussed national and local evaluation efforts, including promising practices common challenges and potential approaches for tackling those challenges. Evaluability, (available) resources and the challenges in creating, using or defining a control group came up frequently. Data protection was also discussed; using a 'data protection sheet' that specifies and formalises what is being shared could help solve this issue. When looking into evaluation, participants were asked to reflect on how to measure and operationalise success. Clear communication, transparency and building trust between partners and stakeholders is key to creating the right atmosphere to evaluate.

On the second day, a follow-up to of a workshop that took place in Cambridge in November 2016 was held for prison and probation practitioners from 7 member states. They learned about the progress made and the obstacles to implementing the evaluation plan drafted in November. One obstacle was how to work with unstructured data: when it is unclear what has already been collected or who has which information. Potential solutions were to develop a survey, start building an overall picture, define a minimum dataset needed and to start forming a network of people and share what is already known. Another obstacle encountered was a lack of resources. Making the evaluation less complex, doing it yourself or using data you already have like management data were put forward as possible solutions. Besides challenges, participants also discussed the online IMPACT Europe toolkit, which will be published soon. This toolkit supports the evaluation of policies and interventions preventing and tackling violent radicalisation and extremism.

RAN Study visit to the Aarhus conference

The city of Aarhus (DK), together with the East Jutland Police and the Strong Cities Network, hosted the international conference ['Building Resilience to Radicalisation and Violent Extremism II'](#). On 17-19 May experts from around the world shared local and municipal practices. As a [partner](#) of this conference, RAN participated with a 14-person delegation representing different working groups. In addition, [Magnus Ranstorp](#) (RAN CoE) delivered a keynote speech and contributed to the workshop on the multi-agency approach. Maurice van der Velden (RAN CoE) participated in the workshop on children in radicalised families. Overall there was a strong focus on identifying innovative local approaches to fostering inclusive communities that are resilient to hatred and violence. More information on this conference is available on [the conference website](#).

German Congress on Crime Prevention

The 22nd German Congress on Crime Prevention (Deutsche Präventionstag) will be take place in Hannover on 19-20 June. The theme for this edition is 'Prevention and Integration'. Both the exhibition and the numerous lectures (partly in English) will address several CVE (related) matters. More information can be [found here](#).

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.

- The RAN P&P guide on violent extremist offenders and the prevention of radicalisation in prisons and probation settings is now available in [French](#) and [German](#).
- The ex-post paper from the Exit Academy meeting in February is now available: [Setting up an exit intervention](#).
- A paper by the RAN LOCAL working group on how schools and local authorities can work together in [multi-agency interventions](#).
- Presenting the views of young people on the prevention of radicalisation: read the ex-post paper of the [RAN YOUNG meeting in March](#).

RAN Calendar

May 2017	June 2017
<p>RAN P&P <i>Confederation of European Probation</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 22-23 May, Dublin (IE)</p>	<p>Study visit <i>Local prevent approaches</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 8-9 June, Helsinki (FI)</p> <p>Thematic event <i>Returnees</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 19 June, Brussels (BE)</p> <p>Joint event EXIT & C&N <i>Use of formers in campaigns</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 26-27 June, Bordeaux (FR)</p> <p>RAN EXIT <i>Learnings from cults</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 27-28 June, Bordeaux (FR)</p> <p>RAN YF&C <i>Strengthening community voices</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 29-30 June, London (UK)</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

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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