

## RAN UPDATE 3– September 25, 2012

### Position papers of the working groups

All working groups have produced position papers. The RAN working groups are:

- The working group of police officers and law enforcement officials (RAN POL)
- The working group on deradicalisation and exit-interventions (RAN DERAD)
- The working group for the voices of victims of terrorism (RAN VVT)
- The working group on Internet and social media (RAN @)
- The working group on early interventions and the prevention of radicalisation (RAN PREVENT):
- The working group on internal/external factors (RAN INT/EXT), such as foreign fighters and diaspora
- The working group of prison and probation services (RAN P&P)
- The working group for health practitioners (RAN HEALTH)

### Kick-off meetings of all working groups

As reported before, in our RAN Update 2, three working groups have had their first meetings before the summer holidays, namely RAN POL (24-26 April in Sofia), RAN VVT (29-30 May in Paris) and RAN DERAD (4-5 June in Stockholm). The other five working groups have had or planned their kick-off meetings too:

- **RAN PREVENT** has had its first meeting on 13-14 September in Budapest, where 20 attendees exchanged promising practices. At this meeting, the significant contribution of former radicals ("formers") to preventing others from radicalising was explored. There was also discussion about the need for better cooperation between practitioners with expertise on prevention on the one hand, and key persons/practitioners in communities at risk on the other hand. It may be counter-productive to send a practitioner with experience on prevention, into a community, if he doesn't have experience with this community.
- **RAN INT/EXT** has had its kick-off meeting on 20-21 September in The Hague. More than 30 participants discussed the phenomenon of foreign fighters. A significant number of terrorist attacks in the EU seems to be committed by radicals who were trained in camps abroad. At least until recently most training camps were located in Afghanistan and Pakistan. After attacks on these locations, new camps in Yemen and Somalia (but also Kenya and Syria) seem to be providing training to travellers. Preventing radicals from travelling was discussed too, exploring the possible role of civil society..
- **RAN HEALTH** will have its first meeting on 27-28 September in Prague. Nearly 50 participants from almost all Member States are expected to attend. The involvement of health (institutions) in radicalisation awareness is not self-evident. Why and how health is involved, is therefore a key issue in Prague. Possible contributions of the health sector to radicalisation awareness will be discussed, as will promising practices.
- **RAN @** will have its first meeting on 14 November, probably in London. In the preparation of this meeting, a discussion paper and enquiry will be distributed. The paper and enquiry are on the possible ways Internet and social media can contribute in the fight against violent extremism.
- **RAN P&P** will have its first meeting on 19-20 November in Vienna. Practitioners from prison and probation services of nearly all Member States are expected to attend. Promising practices will be presented and discussed. The two day conference aims to initiate a network, to explore the European landscape of prison and probation in relation to (de)radicalization and to exchange lessons learnt.

### Following meetings

- **RAN POL** has planned two regional conferences, the first to be held for the 7 Nordic and Baltic Member States on 12-13 December in Riga. To prepare this conference, a preparatory meeting in Copenhagen has taken place on 17-18 September, which was attended by officers from all 7 Nordic and Baltic Member States. In December in Riga the police officers and other law enforcement officials will focus, among other things, on 'lone wolves', on the Internet and on radicalisation of extreme right, extreme left and Islamist groups.
- **RAN INT/EXT** plans a following meeting on 1 November in Berlin. This meeting will focus on the families of (possible) travellers. The role of parents, women and formers will be discussed.
- **RAN DERAD** will have its following meeting on 10-11 October 2012 in Barcelona. As Member States from the North and West were well represented at the Stockholm meeting, the meeting in Barcelona is meant to focus on practitioners of Member States from the Central-Eastern and Southern parts of Europe. Case studies and approaches will be discussed. Context factors of good first line deradicalisation will also be formulated.
- **RAN VVT** will have a following meeting on 6-7 November at The Hague. NAVT, the Network of Associations of Victims of Terrorism, will have its last meeting the day before in the same city. Making the voice of victims effectively heard will be the focus of both meetings.
- **RAN HEALTH** plans a following meeting on 6-7 December, perhaps in Vienna.

### **High Level Conference**

On 29 January 2013 a High Level Symposium will be organised. Ministers and other high level policy makers will be invited to discuss several aspects of radicalisation with RAN members. All working groups will be represented and interact with the policy makers. The day before, on 28 January 2013, the RAN Plenary of all RAN members and participants will be held. Both are foreseen in Brussels. In the preparation of the High Level Conference, all working groups will produce policy recommendations. The elaboration of such recommendations is an important aim of all working groups meetings.