

June 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](#).

Table of Contents

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

RAN activities since the last RAN Update

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

The P&P meeting on 22-23 May was organised in close cooperation with the Confederation of European Probation (CEP). The prison part of P&P often receives more attention than probation, but probation is an important stage in the chain from prosecution to re-socialisation. Over 30 RAN practitioners gathered at the Irish Probation Service in Dublin to discuss three main topics:

1. the potential transfer of probation methods used for other high-risk groups (for example sex offenders) to former extremists.
2. how to deal with returnees when they enter probation systems in the future (experience in this field is limited as most returnees from Daesh territories are still in prison or have not yet been prosecuted).
3. the training needs of probation staff working with radicalised persons.

Upcoming RAN activities

RAN Study visit: local approach in Helsinki

Local prevention is key - this RAN message is often repeated. Measures are most effective when carried out by teachers, community police officers and youth workers. The coordination of these practitioners and multi-agency structures is carried out by local government, local authorities also provide the link to the national level. RAN will facilitate a study visit to Helsinki on 8-9 June to see how practitioners there work closely with the municipal authorities. Participants will be able to visit local practitioners, community police projects and NGOs involved in CVE.

Thematic event: Responses to returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families

Concerns over EU citizens returning from Daesh-held territories and other terrorist-controlled areas have been around for some time now. Proper responses have however neither been defined, nor put in place. The diversity of the returnee group complicates a coherent response: some are radicalised fighters with combat experience, others might be disillusioned teens who were once recruited but are now fleeing Daesh-held territories. Among those returning are children, some born abroad. RAN is organising a thematic conference on returnees on 19 June in Brussels. Prison wardens, teachers, police officers, social care workers and others are among the first to engage with returnees will exchange insights with policy-makers and academics. A manual on responses to returnees will be presented, including a checklist to support EU Member States to assess whether and how their policies and practices need to be complemented.

Joint event RAN EXIT - C&N: working with formers

Former extremists are often seen as credible messengers when communicating to counter violent extremism (CVE). The same goes for exit work. Deradicalised formers can discredit extremist propaganda and contribute to disengagement and resilience building. At the joint event on 26-28 June in Bordeaux, we will look at the added value of working with formers. And we will ask the following questions:

- What makes a person a former?
- In what part of the exit process is a former more beneficial than a professional?
- How long after leaving extremism/radicalisation behind can you start to involve a former in online or offline exit work?
- What are the challenges involved in having formers as staff members?

The key deliverable of the meeting will be a manual on the dos and don'ts on involving a former as credible messenger in communication, and as a coach for exit work. A second objective is to create a network of formers to which practitioners in the field of Exit and/or C&N can reach out for cooperation and advice.

RAN EXIT: learning from cults

There are many correlations between radicalisation and cults: both appeal in essence to the needs of isolated and vulnerable people looking for a sense of belonging. Religion or ideology often comes second. Researchers and practitioners in exit work have not yet taken full advantage of the experience, projects and methodologies from cult exit work. On 27-28 June in Bordeaux RAN will hold a back-to-back meeting with the ICSA (International Cult Studies Association) on the similarities and differences between the fields.

RAN YF&C: strengthening community voices

Despite efforts by governments and public authorities, prevention of extremism and radicalisation also takes place in communities. It is therefore important to invest in community engagement and community empowerment. The empowerment of community voices and resilience to polarisation and radicalisation will be key to the RAN YF&C meeting in London on 29-30 June. The main topics of this meeting will be:

- The role of communities in preventing polarisation and radicalisation.
- How to unlock intra- and inter community potential to play a positive role.
- How to empower credible voices within communities.

Other news

Kasper Fisker new co-chair RAN LOCAL

The RAN LOCAL working group recently welcomed a new co-chair from Denmark: Kasper Fisker. Kasper is employed by the Western Copenhagen municipality of Albertslund as Chief of Staff and Head of Office for Crime Prevention, and he works in close cooperation with the mayor's office. "It is a privilege to be joining the RAN Centre of Excellence and to render my expertise together with co-chair Jessika Soors," he says. Kasper has worked in crime prevention for two decades, first as a lead coordinator of local public authorities, and later as a senior criminologist and security adviser in the Danish Security and Intelligence Service. "In the Security and Intelligence Service I was leading the development, implementation and management of The Danish Model - a national structure and methodological framework drawing on every sector of public service to prevent radicalisation, build resilience and reintegrate militants."

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 research paper by Haroro Ingram (ICCT) on the use of the [linkage-based approach](#) for counter-terrorism strategic communications.
- A study into [risk assessment](#) and the prevention of radicalisation leading from non-violence to terrorism by Kiran Sarma (National University of Ireland Galway).

RAN Calendar

June 2017	July 2017
<p>Study visit <i>Local prevent approaches</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 8-9 June, Helsinki (FI)</p>	<p>RAN H&SC <i>Cross-cultural approaches</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 4-5 July, Dublin (IE)</p>
<p>Thematic event <i>Returnees</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 19 June, Brussels (BE)</p>	<p>Thematic event <i>Polarisation</i> <u>Date and location:</u> 6 July, Leiden (NL)</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