

November 2017

*This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with more than 3 500 other people, because you have participated in a RAN activity, or because 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 latest RAN Update
- Coming up
- New publications
- New practices in the Collection
- RAN Calendar
- Contact details

## RAN activities since the latest RAN Update

### **RAN C&N meeting**

Audiences of right- and left-wing violent extremists was the focus of a C&N working group meeting in Rome, Italy, on 2-3 November. The aim was to exchange ideas and good practices on how to develop and promote effective alternative and counter narratives, learning from the tactics used by right- and left-wing violent extremists. Discussions touched upon the similarities between both types of extremism, how they enhance each other and how the two groups try to influence their target audiences. The meeting also looked at what this means for those developing (online) counter and alternative narratives. If and how to debunk misinformation, propaganda and conspiracy theories was also discussed - tips, tricks and lessons will be shared in the ex post paper on the meeting, which will be available on the RAN website. The meeting was attended by 28 participants (practitioners and academics), covering 15 countries throughout Europe.

### **RAN Plenary**

RAN practitioners came together in Brussels on 15 November to exchange experiences, plans and outcomes. The Plenary also contemplated new and upcoming challenges, and discussed RAN's draft Annual Activity Plan for 2018. The day kicked off with a word of welcome from Hans Das of the European Commission and was followed by a panel discussion on prevention challenges for 2018 bringing together Daniela PISOIU (Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik, Germany), Lasse Lindekilde (Aarhus University, Denmark) and Jonathan Russell (Breakthrough Media and RAN C&N co-chair, UK). Three break-out rounds were an opportunity for working groups to present their 2017 activities, the trends and challenges they see for the future, and their plans for 2018. The Plenary was closed by a panel of Member

State representatives chaired by the European Commission's Director for Security Luigi Soreca, who gave their reactions to the draft 2018 RAN plan.

### **Thematic event: spotlight on training**

Teaching practitioners how to deal with radicalisation leading to violent extremism is a common component of PVE/CVE strategies throughout the EU. Brussels hosted an event on 16 November that looked at a broad range of training programmes, from those focused on early detection to others targeting how to deradicalise, using a multi-agency approach, and engaging with radicalised persons. The meeting also addressed more strategic questions, such as how to teach relevant skills and information to practitioners, and how to secure a sustainable level of knowledge throughout different sectors.

### **Annual Activity Plan on the table at RAN Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee was an opportunity to examine the policy priorities guiding RAN, as well as the draft Annual Activity Plan. The Plan takes stock of a need for greater exchange between policy-makers and practitioners, and outlines ideas for a policy and practice events in 2018. Emerging trends, such as interdependency between far-right and far-left extremism and jihadism were also examined. Other priorities for 2018 included contact between first-line practitioners and the families of foreign terrorist fighters, working with the children of returnees, engagement with (religious) communities – by policy-makers as well as practitioners, polarisation, multi-agency approaches, and greater engagement with researchers.

## Coming up

### **Dealing with fake news, conspiracies and propaganda in the classroom: media literacy in the digital era, Budapest**

RAN EDU will gather teachers and others to discuss innovative and inspiring media literacy and critical thinking projects and materials for students and teachers on 29-30 November. RAN EDU is therefore looking for innovative, and inspiring *prevent* projects and approaches from across the EU that deal with fake news, conspiracies and propaganda in the classroom. Teachers are often confronted by pupils who believe conspiracy theories, and school curricula are being challenged by fake news and propaganda. Pupils even help to spread it. Recognising bias in news stories or social media is one form of media literacy. Spotting when the news is fabricated is something else entirely. How can teachers help students tell fact from media fiction? Critical thinking and media literacy are key in the digital era. Students need to build suspicion and resilience against propaganda, recruitment and fake news.

### **RAN YF&C: The role of youth work in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism**

Young people are an important focus in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism (PVE) because they can be very vulnerable. Some particularly vulnerable young people are difficult to reach. Youth workers and other practitioners that work with young people in social settings should be involved detecting early signs of radicalisation and offering

alternative paths. The programme will discuss what is in place already across Europe, such as tools and handbooks from [DG EAC](#) and [SALTO](#), which support youth workers in dealing with these challenges. Furthermore, the meeting will present inspiring PVE practices within open, detached and online youth work. Finally, the meeting will discuss approaches, methodologies and tools to help youth workers assess and discuss taboos and controversial topics.

### **Risk assessment: lone actors**

A key issue for the H&SC working group is the role of the health and social care professionals in identifying and treating lone actors. A key question is whether there are indicators when an individual starts along a path to violent extremism; and if so, how can they be used to prevent and counter lone-actor terrorism?

Violent terrorist attacks committed by lone actors have become an increasing concern for governments across Europe. This concern has only increased with foreign fighters returning to their home countries. Terrorist groups are actively calling on people to execute acts of violence or terror on their own.

Potential lone actors could be treated by professionals from the health and social care sector before, during and/or after their process of radicalisation.

These issues will be discussed at a RAN H&SC working group meeting between health and social care practitioners as well as policy-makers on 12-13 December. The meeting will seek to identify relevant methodologies, such as risk assessment tools. Attention will also be paid to the ways in which this type of work can be evaluated. Case studies will be used to explain working methods.

### **RAN P&P: the extreme right and radicalisation**

The RAN P&P Working Group's final meeting of the year will gather approximately 50 practitioners from the prison and probation services of all EU Member States., focusing on extreme right radicalisation and polarisation in prison and probation. The meeting will also be an occasion to look back on the Returnees Manual, which included a section on prison and probation, and to build on the knowledge gathered there. The meeting will take place on 12-13 December in Prague, Czech Republic.

## **New publications**

### **“Lettres à Nour” by Rachid Benzine**

RAN was invited by the *Comité Interministériel de Prévention de la Délinquance et de la radicalisation* to attend the reading of excerpts from the novel « *Nour, pourquoi n'ai-je rien vu venir ?* » [Nour, why didn't I see this coming ?] by Rachid Benzine. The author, together with French actress Lou de Laâge read a moving dialogue between a father - a university professor and a Muslim - and his daughter Nour, is writing from the so-called Caliphate, where she has chosen to live because it is “in harmony with her spiritual aspirations”.

More information about the book [here](#).

## New Practices in the RAN Collection

The Collection now also contains practices from [Europris](#):

- [Basic training for correctional officers](#);
- [E-learning: Understanding and Addressing Extremism in Prisons and Probation](#);
- [NeDiS - Network Deradicalisation in the penal System](#);
- [Seminar and training for prison staff](#);
- [The manifestation of extremism and radicalisation inside Czech prisons](#);
- [Training courses on violent radicalisation and proselytism in prison](#);
- [Training for prison guards: 'Identification of signs of radicalisation'](#)
- [Training of on-site referee trainers \(ORT\) on violent islamist radicalisation awareness in detention](#)
- [Train-the-trainer awareness training and resource persons](#)

## RAN Calendar

January 2018	February 2018
<b>RAN C&amp;N</b> <i>A psychological/neuroscience perspective</i> <u>Date and location</u> : 25-26 January, Brussels (Belgium)	<b>RAN EDU</b> <i>Further and Higher</i> <u>Date and location</u> : 8-9 February, Place TBD
<b>RAN EXIT</b> <i>Left-wing Extremism</i> <u>Date and location</u> : 29-30 January, Athens (Greece)	<b>LOCAL - YF&amp;C</b> <i>Joint Working Group event</i> <u>Date and location</u> : 26-27 February, Prague (Czech Republic)

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](mailto: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](http://ec.europa.eu/ran)