

Dear all,

This is the 4th RAN Update on the progress of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You have attended a RAN working group meeting or you have registered your interest in the network. Therefore you receive this e-mail, as do nearly 500 other people. If you do not want to receive such e-mails, please let us know. Feel free to distribute this e-mail and suggest others to subscribe.

Working group meetings until now

In previous RAN Updates, we reported on kick-off meetings of five working groups, namely RAN POL (24-26 April in Sofia), RAN VVT (29-30 May in Paris), RAN DERAD (4-5 June in Stockholm), RAN PREVENT (13-14 September in Budapest) and RAN INT/EXT (20-21 September in The Hague). Since then no less than seven working groups have had a meeting:

- **RAN HEALTH** had its first meeting on 27-28 September in Prague. Some 40 participants from two thirds of the Member States attended. In most Member States the involvement of the health sector in radicalisation awareness is not self-evident. Why and how health is involved, was therefore a key issue in Prague. There was a productive discussion on confidentiality and information sharing. The balance between confidentiality and information sharing requires that the health sector involvement is not framed as a search for potential terrorists, but as the safeguarding of vulnerable individuals. Awareness programmes from the UK and the Netherlands were presented.
- **RAN @** had its first meeting on 14 November in London with some 20 attendees. The difference was explored between
 - 1) counter-narratives, that challenge extremist narratives
 - 2) alternative narratives, that put forward a positive story about social values
 - 3) government strategic communications.All agreed that counter-narratives are not about winning the argument, but about planting seeds of doubt. It was noted that successful online counter-narratives are generally linked to offline activities and that legitimate voices are linked to specific contexts. For example, in some cases, only a former neo-Nazi may reach a radicalizing youth group or individual. Metrics of online counter-narratives need to be more than numbers alone, to know whether they address the right target audience, or whether they influence offline behaviour.
- **RAN P&P** had its first meeting on 19-20 November in Vienna. Over 60 practitioners from both prison and probation services of nearly all Member States attended. The fact that that the working group not only covers prison but also probation was considered an advantage by the participants. Many participants underlined that prisons and probation should not only focus on short term protection of society by detaining violent extremists alone, but also on long term security by re-socialisation of these specific offenders. Derad workers in prisons and probation, both statutory and NGOs, should pay attention to more aspects than ideology and religion alone.

Individual approaches are essential. All agreed that better staff training on these issues was needed.

- The training of P&P staff was also mentioned as a recommendation in the second meeting of **RAN INT/EXT** on 8 November in Berlin, with nearly 20 attendees. This meeting focussed on the role of civil society, such as the families of (possible) travellers. The voices of formers and victims are essential. Mentoring was explored as a useful method. The recommendation not to focus on religion and ideology alone, was formulated in this RAN INT/EXT meeting as well. Emotional connection, confidence and attention for social issues are needed before religion and ideology can be discussed. The fact that women can play a productive role in deradicalisation was underlined.
- **RAN DERAD** had a second meeting on 10-11 October 2012 in Barcelona. As Member States from the North and West were well represented at the first meeting in Stockholm, in Barcelona practitioners from Member States in the East and South were mainly invited, resulting in some 50 attendees. Case studies and approaches were discussed, and context factors of good first line deradicalisation were formulated. Among the recommendations formulated were the need for derad trainings and awareness campaigns. Legislative improvements to tackle hate crimes seem possible in some states. Planting seeds of doubt was mentioned as a successful method, just as in the RAN @ meeting. Dozens of other methods were exchanged, varying from role play and psycho drama, to improving communication/discussion skills and Socratic dialogues.
- **RAN VVT** had a second meeting on 6-7 November in The Hague with some 40 attendees. NAVT, the Network of Associations of Victims of the Terrorism, had its last meeting the day before in the same city. Making the voice of victims effectively heard was the focus of both meetings. A matrix was improved, to map and categorize testimonials and other forms of narratives from victims of terrorism. It was agreed that the testimonials should vary depending on the target group, goal, context and other factors. Narratives of victims are not considered as trigger point for radicalized persons, as the targeted group who receives the testimonial should be able to relate to the victim. The European legislation on victims adopted in September 2012, was highlighted.
- **RAN POL** has planned two regional meetings. The first meeting will be held for the 7 Nordic and Baltic Member States in Riga. To prepare this conference, a meeting in Copenhagen has taken place on 17-18 September, which was attended by officers from all 7 Nordic and Baltic Member States.

Following meetings

- The regional conference for RAN POL practitioners from the 7 Nordic and Baltic Member States will take place on **12-13 December in Riga**. Police officers and other law enforcement officials will focus, among other things, on lone wolves, the Internet and radicalisation of extreme right, extreme left and Islamist groups.
- RAN HEALTH will have a second meeting on **6-7 December in Vienna**. Common factors and structural differences in caring for the vulnerable in different Member States will be discussed. Attention will be given to awareness raising methodology and partnership working.

RAN Plenary and High Level Conference

- On 29 January 2013 Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Home Affairs, will host a High Level Conference in Brussels. Over 200 attendees are expected, and about half of them will be RAN participants. Ministers and other high level policy makers will discuss several aspects of radicalisation with RAN participants. Several ministers will address the attendees or co-chair one of the three break-out sessions on (1) the role of local actors, (2) the role of Diasporas and (3) communication, and counter-messaging via Internet. Some working group leaders will co-chair these sessions, others will report on the sessions to the plenary or respond to the discussion. All eight working groups have produced policy recommendations, which will feed the discussion paper for the High Level Conference. The recommendations of the working groups will be used as well in the formulating of a new EU policy on radicalisation in 2013.
- The day before, on 28 January 2013, the RAN Plenary will be held in Brussels, and attended by Commissioner Malmström too. Some 100 RAN participants will debate several challenges of both radicalisation and RAN, in two panel discussions with working group leaders. There will also be three break-out sessions on the above mentioned issues. All working group leaders have selected a limited number of participants from their working groups, to be invited to the RAN Plenary and High Level Conference.

Radicalisation Awareness Network



About RAN and the RAN Secretariat

The Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) is set up by the European Commission as an EU-wide umbrella network of practitioners and local actors involved in countering violent radicalisation. Until 2015 different working groups will exchange experiences, knowledge and good practices. RAN supports the policy process at the EU and Member States' level. The RAN Secretariat is executed by RadarConsultancy.

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