

*This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with more than 4 000 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](#).*

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## RAN activities since the last RAN Update

### **RAN LOCAL: learning from adjacent fields**

The relationship between different adjacent phenomena (hooliganism, honour-related crimes, criminal youth gangs and cults) and the process of radicalisation were the focus of discussions between experts from different fields and local prevent coordinators in Lisbon on 15-16 May. We looked at motives for joining or engaging with these different groups, forms of recruitment and local policy solutions and challenges providing knowledge equally applicable to the field of preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE). A lot of similarities were found, such as the sense of belonging and future perspectives that engagement offers, along with a sense of identity and a social network. We also discussed when and where these fields and the prevention of radicalisation overlap. This led to participants formulating new ideas on how to tweak their P/CVE strategies and interventions, and with whom from the adjacent fields they should cooperate at local level.

### **Member State workshops on evaluating P/CVE programmes and interventions**

Participants at the Member State support workshops comprised national and local policy-makers and advisors, practitioners and researchers. In total, participants from 16 different countries attended. Their experience in evaluation varied: some participants have carried out or commissioned an evaluation of several PCVE programmes; others had little knowledge of evaluation. The workshops addressed strategic and practical questions on conducting PCVE evaluation, and how to influence the general mindset about evaluation while providing insights and tools to bring PCVE evaluation to the next level. The event was also an opportunity to exchange practices at a European level. The workshops provided participants with practical tips on how to carry out PCVE evaluation, while an exercise helped with the thought process

required when performing PCVE evaluation. An ex post paper will follow, capturing useful guidelines on the evaluation of PCVE programmes and interventions.

### **Study visit: youth involvement, Leicester**

Involving young people in P/CVE approaches has become widespread across the European Union. Their involvement is meaningful in multiple ways: they have valuable input for discussions on the prevention of radicalisation, but above for policy- and decision-making processes. Involving young people in the development of a local approach is still done with a ‘ticking the box’- mentality in many countries, but not in Leicester. The city has taken youth participation to a higher level with the creation of a Young People’s Council, the Young Consultants and multiple other inspiring initiatives involving youth.

The study visit to Leicester on 5 and 6 June was an opportunity to see how the city has involved young people in the setting up and implementation of the local P/CVE approach, as well as decision making. Participants attended in couples - each country was represented by one person working for a local authority, and a young person.

### **RAN H&SC: embedding social- and healthcare workers within institutional structures**

Experts, policy-makers and first-line practitioners in health and social care gathered in Munich on 6-7 June to discuss multi agency working (MAW) across the EU. Participants looked at how professionals are currently embedded into institutional structures across the EU, and were introduced to a plethora of different MAW models and approaches. The meeting looked at the different settings in which MAW can be set up - establishing a regional model in a large country would differ significantly to doing so on a national level in a small nation. Concretely, the meeting examined:

1. Types of MAW
2. Nature of threat/risk dealt with by MAW
3. Experiences when establishing MAW
4. Experiences with MAW in place
5. Roles and responsibilities

Several key messages emerged:

- **The nature of MA:** any conversation on collaboration and cross-agency must specify the nature of the MAW being considered, the form of terrorism being addressed, and the phase in the process of violent radicalisation (or deradicalisation) that will form the focus of MAW activities.
- **Barriers to information sharing.** Sharing sensitive data across agencies creates concerns and difficulties. Uncertainty about policies and procedures (and legality and ethics) creates serious barriers to an effective MAW. Furthermore, with the new GDPR privacy laws in place, it is unclear what information professionals can retain.

### **Study visit: juvenile extremist offenders in prison**

The German State of Hessen, and in particular Wiesbaden’s juvenile prison and the pre-trial detention centre in Frankfurt were the destinations for this study visit focusing on how to deal with juvenile violent extremist offenders in prison and probation. As became clear during the

visits and subsequent meeting, EU Member States still have limited experience with juvenile violent extremist offenders (VEOs) and juvenile returning foreign terrorist fighters. No specific approach to juvenile VEOs appears to exist, only those used for other juvenile offenders. This means a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration in prisons, with significant attention paid to education and professional training, in view of a return in society. The ex post paper on the study visit will be published soon on the RAN website.

### **RAN POL: lessons from adjacent fields - crime prevention**

The German Congress on Crime Prevention (GCOCP) took place in Dresden on 11-12 June, and RAN POL was there! Prior to the official congress, RAN POL organised a kick-off meeting with its 20 police participants and a selection of experts speakers from the congress. The experts discussed 'the golden rules of crime prevention' in an international panel. Golden rules such as 'the earlier, the better' and 'local level is key' are well known in PCVE, but the experts also spoke of the importance of working with both victims and offenders, and the role of police in multi-agency settings. RAN POL participants then attended several GCOCP lectures, where practices and research into crime prevention and PCVE from countries in- and outside of the EU were presented. The lessons learned by participants will be gathered and ultimately will feed into the RAN POL issue paper on 'Lessons from general crime prevention'.

### **RAN YF&C: Building resilience among vulnerable children brought up in an extremist environment**

Children growing up in social environment with extremist influences are particularly vulnerable to becoming radicalised themselves. In addition, children who have gone to Syria, Iraq and other conflict areas may have been exposed to trauma and violence, adding to potential risk factors. Exposure to trauma represents a significant risk to the child's development and overall functioning, and increases the risk of physical and mental issues in the future. These vulnerable children may therefore require long-term care and safeguarding.

How can this be done? How do you help them deal with their trauma while limiting the likelihood of this negatively impacting their future behaviour? How do you ensure that they integrate and resocialise in mainstream society? What type of intervention is required in the long term? And what lessons can be learned from adjacent fields? The YF&C meeting brought together experts from youth work, health- and social care and education responsible for long-term P/CVE interventions, as well as experts from adjacent fields, such as cults and neo-Confederate groups. Participants exchanged their experiences regarding these questions in small groups and worked on practical guidelines and policy recommendations. Some of the key messages from this meeting are:

- The needs of the child are often not taken into account (when surrounded with extremist ideology, and then removed from that situation).
- Practitioners do not always need to have excessive knowledge of the ideology or religion to help their clients.
- Creative therapy such as sports and theatre are effective when dealing with a traumatised child.

The lessons learned during RAN working group meetings are shared in ex post papers. Papers are published on the [RAN website](#), usually around a month after the meeting date.

## Coming up

### **RAN Policy & Practice event: resilience to radicalisation among children**

RAN's third Policy & Practice event for 2018 focuses on young children (aged below 10) raised in extremist environments, and in particular children returning from Syria and Iraq. Developing resilience in these young children is essential if we are to prevent them from turning to violent extremism in the long term themselves. Child returnees are especially vulnerable, having been raised or born in a conflict zone and having frequently witnessed traumatising atrocities. A comprehensive and holistic approach is needed, including schools, youth agencies, kindergartens and social care and health staff - they all have important roles to play. Responses across the EU in tackling the issue differ and the event will allow for stocktaking on where EU countries currently stand, and what recommendations on further action should be considered. It will take place in Warsaw (Poland) on 4 July.

### **RAN P&P assessment tools - state of play**

The Prison and Probation Working Group will have its second meeting of the year in Brussels on 9-10 July. The focus will be on the implementation of risk assessment tools and related challenges when dealing with violent extremist offenders (VEOs). The meeting is exploratory, the aim being to gather knowledge and expertise on these tools and their implementation in Member States. For this reason, the meeting will see the attendance of carefully selected participants, who have practical and frontline experience of working and implementing risk assessment tools with this target group. For those unable to attend, the RAN CoE will present knowledge it in an ex post paper. Depending on the meeting outcomes, RAN may consider follow-up meetings on the same topic with a different audience.

### **Study visit - the local P/CVE approach in Augsburg**

The RAN study visit on 29-30 August will introduce participants to an inspiring example of how to organise a local P/CVE approach. We will learn about specific projects and interventions used in Augsburg, gain insights into how cooperation in the field takes place, and look into information exchange and protocols for local multi-agency partners.

### **RAN EXIT: Learning from adjacent fields – gangs**

As exit work is a rather small and young field, its members are eager to learn from adjacent fields. In 2018 we are looking into working with gang members. To what extent do violent extremist groups and gangs use the same recruitment mechanisms? How do these manipulative groups keep their members loyal? Why do some individuals want to leave a gang or extremist group, and do they need the same support to re-integrate into society? These topics will be discussed during a meeting in Prague on 11-12 September.

### **Study visit: 'preventing and countering violent extremism in and around asylum centres and within communities**

In Malmö from 13 to 14 September, study visit participants will follow one of two tracks. Swedish practitioners and policy-makers will explain Swedish approaches, lessons and challenges to non-Swedish colleagues. The visit is intended to inspire mutual learning.

The focus of the visit will be identifying risks for radicalisation and security threats in asylum seeker centres, plus refugee and host communities? How do we train professionals to work

adequately with vulnerable adults and minors within and around asylum centres? What about groomers or hostility from host communities?

For the study visit, we are looking for different models or approaches to P/CVE within and around asylum centres from across Europe that address these potential risks. Are you interested in this study visit and do you have good practices or approaches to share with RAN? Please contact: [s.lenos@radaradvies.nl](mailto:s.lenos@radaradvies.nl) and [j.krasenberg@radaradvies.nl](mailto:j.krasenberg@radaradvies.nl) for more information.

## RAN Editorial Board

In June, the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) published the first comprehensive [study](#) on the Italian foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) contingent. The study, published only in Italian (a translation in English will be published in the autumn), is based on original data provided by the Italian Ministry of Interior, and analyses the characteristics of the 125 known Italian FTFs.

The Institut français des relations internationales (IFRI) has published a study, entitled [137 Shades of Terrorism: French Jihadists Before the Courts](#), which analyses, based on original judicial sources, the profiles of 137 individuals sentenced in France for cases related to jihadism.

An Interesting [article](#) summarising the British approach to de-radicalisation was published in the latest issue of Studies in Conflict and Terrorism.

## RAN Calendar

July 2018	August 2018
<p><b>RAN EDU and RAN HS&amp;C</b> Resilience of children against radicalisation Policy &amp; Practice event <u>Date and location:</u> 4 July, Warsaw (Poland)</p> <p><b>RAN P&amp;P</b> Assessment Tools – state of play <u>Date and location:</u> 9-10 July, Brussels (Belgium)</p>	<p><b>Study visit ‘Local approach in the city of Augsburg to countering violent extremism’</b> <u>Date and location:</u> 29-30 August, Augsburg (Germany)</p>
<p>The full calendar for 2018 is available online</p>	

If you are interested in attending a forthcoming RAN meeting, please contact the appropriate RAN CoE staff member. Check the RAN website for a [full list of contacts by working group](#).

## Contact details

The RAN Centre of Excellence is implemented by RadarEurope, which is a subsidiary of the RadarGroup:

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