

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](#).

Table of Contents

- RAN activities since the last RAN Update
- Coming up
- Recent publications
- First Policy & Practice video online
- Non-RAN Publications
- Calendar

RAN activities since the last RAN Update

RAN Policy & Practice event: resilience to radicalisation among children

This year, six RAN Policy and Practice events are delivering on a call by both practitioners and national policy-makers to step up the exchanges that they have. The main objectives are to allow insights from practitioners to feed into national policies, and to have national policy priorities guide the daily work of practitioners.

The third such event took place in Warsaw on 4 July. The meeting focused on young children raised in extremist environments (Jihadi, right-wing or other). Developing resilience in these young children is key if we are to avoid them turning to violent extremism later on themselves. Particular attention was paid to child returnees who are particularly vulnerable. Participants included educators, health practitioners, social workers, representatives from local authorities and government bodies.

In the closing comment, Omar Ramadan, representing the RAN CoE, highlighted how children raised in extremist environments might not be violent extremism themselves but are very vulnerable to radicalisation leading to violent extremism at a later stage. Long-term mental health support is needed, and schools need to be prepared, involved and supported. The extended family should be considered as an alternative to institutionalised foster care. Parents should be engaged as much as possible, even when imprisoned.

A more detailed insight into the topics discussed will be provided in the ex post paper.

RAN P&P assessment tools - state of play

RAN P&P held an expert meeting in Brussels on 9-10 July on risk assessment tools for violent extremist and terrorist offenders. The meeting focused on understanding the architecture of the tools, their development and implementation, and their effective use in a prison and probation setting. Three tools were presented: Extremism Risk Guideline (ERG) 22+, Violent Extremism Risk Assessment 2 Revised (VERA2R) and the Radicalisation Risk Assessment in Prisons (RRAP) Tool Set. Discussions zoomed in on:

- differences between screening and a full risk assessment;
- using screening and risk assessment on convicted terrorist offenders vs. a vulnerable group of offenders who have not been convicted of such crimes but may show signs of radicalisation;
- the importance of determining the objective of a risk assessment;
- who qualifies as an assessor (e.g. psychologists, probation staff, other) and the skills needed;
- the role and involvement of the offender him- or herself in the risk assessment.

Specific attention was paid to offenders with autism spectrum disorder and how this may influence risk assessment on extremism.

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 YOUNG: Youth empowerment in preventing radicalisation and violent extremism

Involving young people in preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) has been widely recognised as important across the EU. Involving young does not only mean engaging them in discussions about preventing radicalisation, but also in policy and decision-making processes. Youth participation can only be achieved when certain conditions are in place, such as respect, recognition, inclusivity, exchange of information and youth empowerment.

The meeting will look at how young people can be empowered to make a valuable contribution to the prevention of radicalisation. What do young people need to know, learn and develop in order to actively participate in the debate - and to be heard? What kind of information do they need, and what could or should be their role in decision-making processes? The meeting will take place in Nice, France, from 10 to 11 September.

Recent Publications

Ex post papers

[RAN LOCAL What can we learn from adjacent phenomena? Lisbon 15-16 May 2018](#)

Local coordinators can learn from criminal youth gangs, hooliganism, honour-related crimes and cults on how to prevent radicalisation. Our ex post paper focuses on how to apply the insights from adjacent fields to work in P/CVE.

[RAN P&P Right-wing extremism on the rise? Prague 12-13 December 2017](#)

Our ex post paper deals with traditional right-wing extremism, the new generation of the extreme right and in particular the extreme right in prison and probation.

[RAN P&P The role of family and social networks in the rehabilitation of \(violent\) extremist and terrorist offenders, Utrecht 6-7 March 2018](#)

How can the positive potential of family and social networks be harnessed in the rehabilitation of a terrorist offender when such connections are absent? Our ex post paper highlights key challenges and responses. It targets prison, probation and family support professionals who want to develop or enhance their strategies and methods.

Policy & Practice videos

The policy & practice video on children and extremism is online! It was filmed at the policy & practice event in Sofia on 4 April, and features policy-makers and practitioners discussing the challenges and provisions for safeguarding children exposed to extremism. You can watch it [here](#) and don't hesitate to share it within your network and/or on social media. Watch out for the next videos in the series, on involving young people in counter-narrative campaigns, and on building resilience in young children. They will be online soon!

Non-RAN publications

[Children in the Levant: Insights from Belgium on the dilemmas of repatriation and the challenges of reintegration](#)

According to intelligence estimates, there are around 1 400 European children in Syria and Iraq, many of whom were born there. The fate of these children confronts European governments with moral, legal, political, diplomatic and security dilemmas. Governments are divided over the issue, but almost all are reluctant to address it head-on. None have taken a proactive stance with regard to these children, creating several security voids. This policy brief looks into the fate of these European children, before exploring in more detail how the Belgians among them are affected. It analyses the position of the Belgian government with regard to repatriation and reviews existing policies concerning returning children. The authors close with a number of recommendations for Belgian and European authorities, including a plea for a more proactive response.

RAN Calendar

August 2018	September 2018
<p>Study visit: 'Local approach to countering violent extremism in the city of Augsburg' Date and location: 29-30 August, Augsburg (Germany)</p>	<p>RAN YOUNG 'Youth Empowerment in preventing radicalisation and violent extremism' Date and location: 10-11 September, Nice, France</p> <p>RAN EXIT 'Learning from adjacent fields: gangs'</p>

	<p><u>Date and location:</u> 11-12 September, Prague, Czech Republic</p> <p>Study visit: 'Prevention of radicalisation in asylum seeker and refugee communities'</p> <p><u>Date and location:</u> 13-14 September, Malmo, Sweden</p> <p>RAN C&N</p> <p>'The role of "informal actors" in preventing violent extremism'</p> <p><u>Date and location:</u> 20-21 September, Helsinki, Finland</p> <p>RAN RVT</p> <p>Delivering testimonials effectively</p> <p><u>Date and location:</u> 20-21 September, Amsterdam, the Netherlands</p> <p>Steering Committee</p> <p><u>Date and location:</u> 25 September, Brussels, Belgium</p> <p>RAN LOCAL</p> <p>How can political support help prevent radicalisation or violent extremism at local level?</p> <p><u>Date and location:</u> 27 September, Berlin, Germany</p> <p>RAN LOCAL, RAN YFC</p> <p>Working with local communities in CVE</p> <p><u>Date and location:</u> 28 September, Berlin, 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:

RAN Centre of Excellence

Veemarkt 83
NL - 1019 DB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
+31 (0)20 463 50 50 (office)
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