



This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with more than 4 500 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 last RAN Update
- Coming up
- Latest publications
- Non-RAN publications
- New RAN videos
- Calendar

RAN activities since the last RAN Update

Study visit in Augsburg, Germany: Learning about the local approach to countering violent extremism

RAN organised a study visit to German city of Augsburg on 29-30 August. Packed with inspiring locations and initiatives, participants learned how Augsburg has led the way in terms of organising for the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism (P/CVE approach) on a local level.

Participants shared success stories and discussed the challenges they faced in their own cities. The issues discussed covered a wide range of topics, including the importance of political support, information exchange and case management, as well as ways to bring together the right partners to develop a sustainable local P/CVE network.

RAN YOUNG: Youth Empowerment in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)

Youth empowerment is necessary for young people to participate in topics like P/CVE. However, engaging young people in P/CVE is just as important. It can lead to youth empowerment by eliminating some of the root causes of radicalisation simply by acknowledging youth and taking them seriously. RAN YOUNG discussed the topic of youth empowerment in Nice (FR) on 10-11 September. The central question was about the conditions that need to be in place for young people to take action in P/CVE. Participants considered various kinds of empowerment: knowledge empowerment, personal empowerment, skills and competences, and professionalisation. They attended workshops led by experts on these sub-topics. They also listened to inspiring examples from each other. The meeting was a great success. The related ex



post paper will follow and will contain the outcomes in the form of a ‘RAN YOUNG empowerment table’.

Study visit to Malmö, Sweden: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in and around asylum centres and within refugee communities

Considering the push and pull factors of radicalisation, it is evident that, among refugees, there are individuals and groups who are vulnerable to radicalisation leading to violent extremism. The study visit in Malmö on 13-14 September was organised by RAN together with the Swedish government.

Swedish practitioners and presented the Swedish approaches, lessons and challenges and discussed these with professionals from other European countries. One observation was that until recently, asylum seekers were not a group of interest or concern in the discussion of radicalisation and violent extremism. Therefore, the focus of the study visit was on recognising and identifying what makes refugees particularly vulnerable to manipulation by groomers and extremist ideologies.

The meeting identified some of the vulnerabilities that refugees, in particular, have to deal with. Think of language and cultural barriers, identity issues, disappointment, boredom in the procedure or dealing with mental health issues like trauma, depression and PTSD.

Furthermore, the meeting recognised the following four groups as being particularly vulnerable:

1. Those suffering from mental health issues/illnesses and facing socio-psychological problems.
2. Those excluded from the asylum procedures and who remain in the country, for instance, because they are not cooperating with the return procedures.
3. Unaccompanied minors.
4. Young adults and unaccompanied minors who become more vulnerable when they lose the protective system in place for minors when they come of age (turn 18+).

Participants at the study visit reached the conclusion that there is more room for cooperation between the world of PVE and the asylum sector. They stressed the need for professional awareness among those working with refugees. Training was recommended to avoid stigmatisation, alienation and to contribute to the prevention of radicalisation.

It was agreed that it is easier to protect people if you know what to look for. This was best illustrated by experiences shared by one Swedish human trafficking expert who said: “Without knowing what it is about, you can’t see it”.

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 RVT Delivering testimonials effectively

Testimonials of victims of terrorism can serve as good narratives to use in PVE work. On 20 and 21 September, the meeting of the RVT Working Group will aim at helping individuals to improve their testimonials as well as giving them tools to work on their testimonials themselves.

The workshop will invite experts to discuss storytelling and counter-narratives. It will also work on a peer-to-peer basis. Furthermore, youngsters and journalists will help victims find the best ways to deliver their testimonials. The main topics will evolve around the following questions: How can the impact of testimonials be increased? How can you better relate to your audience in order to reach their hearts and minds? And how should you disseminate your PVE message?

As a follow-up, an extensive toolkit for delivering testimonials will be produced by RAN.

‘Optimising Triple P: Police - Prison - Probation’

On 20-21 September, RAN POL and RAN P&P organise a joint event on the topic of cooperation between police, prison and probation (Triple-P) in Prague, Czech Republic. These criminal justice organisations have different roles towards violent extremist and terrorist offenders before, during and after sentencing. However, they have similar objectives in keeping society safe from recruitment into radicalised groups and plotting of terrorist attacks.

Practitioners from law enforcement, prison and probation will share their experiences guided by a few country examples showing how cooperation can be organised in the face of challenges as regards the sharing of data and information. In addition, they will review how they use risk and threat assessment tools and how each of the organisations is involved in rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. The joint event also serves as a preparatory event for the RAN Policy and Practice event on Triple-P on 22 November in Paris.

Steering Committee

On 25 September, the co-chairs of the RAN working groups gather for a Steering Committee meeting. They will discuss two priority topics: long-term resilience among child returnees who have lived in terrorist-held territory (including child refugees), as well as preventing recidivism of violent extremists released from prison. Both challenges are scheduled to be addressed at the 11 October RAN High-Level Conference during which ministers will be invited to exchange views with selected RAN practitioners. The 25 September meeting of the Steering Committee will also prepare for the production of the 2019 RAN Annual Activity Plan, which will be discussed at the 12 October RAN Plenary meeting of core constituencies of RAN working groups.

RAN LOCAL How can political support help prevent radicalisation or violent extremism at local level?

Political support is one of the most crucial elements of establishing and carrying out a local strategy to prevent radicalisation or violent extremism. Since the “beliefs” behind CVE strategy are formulated mainly by national governments, it is important to also include political representatives on the local level, such as local prefects, mayors, politicians and council members, in the decision-making process. They all need to be aware and supportive of local or regional CVE to ensure a successful outcome. Without broad political support, funding for the local strategy, but most importantly the interventions, can be hard. What is more, strong support and political leadership is needed when sometimes taking risk in promoting interventions or delivering a hard message regarding the prevention of radicalisation to the public. In short, the question is about how to secure sustainable political support. During this meeting, we will explore this topic with local coordinators, some politicians and experts on politics for this

meeting. The outcome of this meeting, which will take place in Berlin on 27 September, will be an ex post paper with tips, examples and tricks on how to ensure political support.

RAN Policy and Practice ‘Engaging with communities’

Community engagement can be a valuable tool in the prevention and countering of radicalisation and violent extremism (P/CVE). However, if community engagement is not executed properly, it can lead to communities feeling stigmatised and singled-out and could ultimately prove to be counter-productive. Following the recommendations of the HLCEG-R, the RAN Youth, Families & Communities working group (YF&C) and the RAN Local Authorities (LOCAL) working group discussed the collaboration between communities and local authorities at a joint meeting and developed a step-by-step approach([1]). However, there are still many challenges to overcome and national governments have an important role to play in creating the preconditions for a fruitful collaboration between local authorities and communities in P/CVE.

During this fourth RAN Policy and Practice event, which will take place in Berlin on 28 September, we will look into how national authorities, local authorities and communities can strengthen each other’s efforts in P/CVE. Mutual learning on the responses needed is foreseen. Following the event, an ex post paper will capture the insights exchanged and present recommendations for the enhancement of both policies and practices.

Right wing extremism in schools

With growing concern about the rise of right wing extremism (RWE) all over Europe, the next RAN EDU meeting will focus on RWE in schools. In Germany, and especially in Eastern Germany (although not exclusively), right wing extremism has a long history. Schools in an area with a history of far-right activism may be under particular pressure. Just a handful of students with radical right affiliations and the support of adults is enough to ruin the climate in a school. There are areas where RWE is manifesting itself quite openly, through the organisation of events and the pro-active recruitment of youngsters. This makes schools particularly prone to radicalisation and extremism on their premises. How widespread is this phenomenon inside the classroom? What can schools do to address the issue?

Especially in Germany, a wide range of government-supported projects and materials are being used in schools. What programmes are available? How do these programmes question right wing extremist thought and encourage those who are not of right wing opinion (unrelated to promoting political parties) to oppose anti-democratic ideas and support democratic values? It is easy for schools to take a wrong or mistaken approach to this matter in response to the messages they are receiving from government - and this could lead to damaging consequences.

Furthermore, RWE is closely linked to hate speech, fake news and conspiracies. As such, we will further explore the findings of the RAN EDU media literacy meeting (November 2017). In addition to the new versions of Nazi and fascist movements, RWE also manifests in the identitarian movement, anti-Islam groups and other nationalist and xenophobic groups. These groups can sometimes count on widespread public and sometimes political support. What is the effect on the curriculum and the teachers in school? How has this relatively recent political development influenced the content and methods of existing programmes?

[1] [RAN ex post paper](#) ‘Engaging with communities’ February 2018, Prague (CZ)

The RAN EDU working group meeting in Berlin on 23-24 October will discuss what works and how new political realities are shaping the projects. The meeting will present good practises from across Europe, with a particular focus on several German approaches.

Latest Publications

Ex post papers

[MS Workshops Guidelines Evaluation of PCVE Programmes and Interventions, July 2018](#)

European Union Member States have rapidly implemented programmes and interventions for the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism (PCVE), but the evaluation of these measures is still in its infancy. This guideline has been developed to assist anyone working in the area of PCVE and who is interested in conducting or commissioning evaluation.

[RAN Policy & Practice Event, Building resilience among young children raised in extremist environments](#)

The emotional and physical trauma affecting children aged under 10 who are raised in extremist environments or return from a conflict zone can be acute. Our paper shares recommendations from our 3rd Policy and Practice meeting, which was held in Warsaw on 4 July. Participants discussed how to build resilience among these children.

[RAN POL Lessons from crime prevention, Dresden 12-13 June 2018](#)

Our paper outlines the lessons learned from crime prevention to assist police working to prevent and counter violent extremism.

[RAN Study visit Juvenile and young violent extremist offenders - Prison study visit, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt, 7-8 June 2018](#)

RAN organised a study visit to the Federal State of Hesse, Germany, on 7-8 June. The purpose of the visit was to learn the approach for juvenile and young violent extremist offenders in prison, from both a security and a rehabilitative point of view.

[RAN Study visit Youth participation in the city of Leicester, 5-6 June 2018](#)

The city of Leicester has taken youth participation to a higher level with their Young People's Council, the Young Consultants and multiple inspiring initiatives involving youth. The RAN study visit to Leicester was an opportunity to see first-hand how the city involved young people in the formation and implementation of the local P/CVE approach, as well as in the decision-making processes involved.

[RAN POL Police prevention and countering of far-right and far-left extremism, Rome 12-13 April 2018](#)

In Europe, extremism – both right- and left-wing – is in a state of flux. While perceptions of immigration, Islam and terrorism are shaping the far right, a new dynamic in the right-wing extremism landscape is influencing the far left, albeit partly as an autonomous development. As such, police should be aware of these developments. Our paper considers approaches for improving police engagement and dialogue as part of the PCVE effort.

[RAN P&P Developing, implementing and using risk assessment for violent extremist and terrorist offenders, Brussels 9-10 July 2018](#)

The RAN Prison and Probation (P&P) working group meeting in Brussels on 9 and 10 July focused on the organisational aspect of specialised risk assessment tools: decision-making to ascertain whether a specialised tool is necessary and determine the purpose of the tool; shaping the implementation process; the importance of selecting and training suitable assessors (i.e. professionals using the risk assessment tool); and considerations particular to the prison and probation context and the offender population.

Non-RAN publications

Cubs in the Lions' Den: Indoctrination and Recruitment of Children Within Islamic State Territory, by Gina Vale (ICSR, July 2018)

New ICSR report: 'Cubs in the Lions' Den: Indoctrination and Recruitment of Children Within Islamic State Territory', written by Research Fellow Gina Vale, is focused on how children first come to be included into the IS' proto-state system and then analyses the six 'pathways of influence' through which children in IS territory have been recruited: kidnapping and forced enlistment; desensitization to violence; 'positive' governance; social factors; loss/replacement of positive role model(s); and trusted adult influencers. This research shows how IS has created a holistic and extensive strategy to radicalise minors, combining formal and informal, direct and indirect, cooperative and coercive, and individual and systematic methods of simultaneous outreach and indoctrination. After the fall of the IS' physical caliphate, governments and civil society now face the reality of trying to rehabilitate and reintegrate hundreds of radicalised and militarised children. To design and implement approaches to undermine the appeal and recruitment mechanisms of IS, this research provides greater insight into the stages of the enticement and indoctrination of children.

Available at: <https://icsr.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Cubs-in-the-Lions-Den-Indoctrination-and-Recruitment-of-Children-Within-Islamic-State-Territory.pdf>

Policy & Practice Videos

The second video of the Policy & Practice event that took place in Sofia on 4 April is now [online!](#) It deals with the policy and practice partnerships that are currently in place and highlights what needs to be changed.

The policy & practice video about involving young people in counter and alternative narratives is also available! Filmed at the policy & practice event in Madrid on 25 April, it features policymakers, practitioners and young people discussing the importance of involving the latter in the creation of counter and alternative narratives. The key is how to pitch the right message and reach the target audience. Watch the video [here](#) and share it!

The next video will be about building resilience in young children. Stay tuned!

RAN Calendar

September 2018	October 2018
RAN C&N	RAN EDU

<p>'The role of "informal actors" in preventing violent extremism' <u>Date and location:</u> 20-21 September, Helsinki, Finland</p> <p>Joint event RAN POL, RAN P&P 'Optimising Triple P: Police – Prison – Probation' <u>Date and location:</u> 20-21 September, Prague, Czech Republic</p> <p>RAN RVT Delivering testimonials effectively <u>Date and location:</u> 20-21 September, Amsterdam, Netherlands</p> <p>Steering Committee <u>Date and location:</u> 25 September, Brussels, Belgium</p> <p>RAN LOCAL How can political support help prevent radicalisation or violent extremism at local level? <u>Date and location:</u> 27 September, Berlin, Germany</p> <p>RAN LOCAL, RAN YFC Working with local communities in CVE <u>Date and location:</u> 28 September, Berlin, Germany</p>	<p>'Right-wing extremism and schools' <u>Date and location:</u> 23-24 October, Berlin, Germany</p> <p>RAN Study Visit 'Learning from adjacent fields: Exploring the relation between hooliganism and extremism' <u>Date and location:</u> 25-26 October, Poland</p> <p>RAN P&P 'Prisoner Society' <u>Date and location:</u> 25-26 October, Milan, Italy</p> <p>RAN EXIT & RAN H&SC 'Multi-problem target group: the influence of mental health disorders and substance abuse on Exit work' <u>Date and location:</u> 30-31 October, Zagreb, Croatia</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