Update 54

October 2018

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with more than 4 900 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

CSEP call for proposals

The European Commission has published a call for proposals for campaigns covering counter and alternative narratives to radicalisation, implemented by civil society organisation (Civil Society Empowerment programme).

The call has a budget of € 4 million. It is part of the activities foreseen in the Annual Work Programme 2018 for Internal Security Fund-Police, amounting to € 70 million.

Submit your proposal here by 12 February 2019.

More information on Internal Security Fund-Police.

RAN activities since the last RAN Update

RAN C&N 'The role of "informal actors" in preventing violent extremism'
Counter- and alternative narratives seem to be more effective when reaching out to persons vulnerable to radicalisation or those who have already radicalised when these messages come from people within their direct social context. This is why the most effective counter- or alternative narratives, in some cases, are not delivered by first-line CVE practitioners with a specific role, but rather by informal actors (individuals who promote narratives without an organisational mandate). On the local level, these so-called informal actors already promote

counter- or alternative narratives and alternative courses of action (in relation to the extremist narratives and calls to action). By doing so, they limit the space for extremists to recruit. During the RAN C&N meeting on 'The role of "informal actors" in preventing violent extremism', participants discussed how we can increase these counter- and alternative narratives by supporting or facilitating the informal actors who deliver these messages. This meeting brought together practitioners and researchers from across the European Union to discuss the following: what kind of environment fosters interventions carried out by informal-actors and micro-messengers? How we can develop strategies and practical means to foster and upscale these already effective "natural" counter- and alternative narratives where possible? What kind of environment fosters interventions by informal actors? How can informal actors in the PVE-field be empowered? What kind of government or CSO support would not jeopardize the credibility of informal actors? One of the main outcomes of this meeting was that some practitioners find it difficult to engage with certain informal actors who are credible and outspoken because they may make their organisation vulnerable. Another issue discussed was how practitioners should avoid lecturing informal actors or prescribing their messages. Ultimately, their stories are the most credible.

RAN RVT Delivering testimonials effectively
Testimonials of victims of terrorism may be good narratives to use in PVE work. Whereas the RVT Working Group already formulated prerequisites and practical advice for delivering testimonials, this meeting on 20-21 September translated them into a practical workshop. The aim was to improve testimonials of victims, including tips from storytellers, psychologists, journalists and young people.

Participants exchanged insights and elaborated on the following questions: How can the impact of testimonials be increased? How to connect to your target audience and their world? How to deal with emotions while delivering your testimonial?

An ex post paper will follow next month, together with a checklist to provide guidance for victims of terrorism (and their organisations). It will be translated into French and German as well.

Steering Committee
Recent policy developments were on the agenda at the 22 May Steering Committee, with a special focus on the High-Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation (HLCEG-R), the EU legislative proposal on the prevention of online violent extremist content and the Civil Society Empowerment Programme. The focus was also on the topics and set up of the RAN High-Level Conference and RAN Plenary, which took place on 11 and 12 October. During the RAN Plenary, members of the RAN working group constituencies discussed potential topics for the Annual Activity Plan 2019. The RAN High-Level Conference invited ministers and practitioners to discuss the topics of building long-term resilience among child returnees who have lived in terrorist-held territory (including child refugees) and tackling the risk posed by violent extremists released from prison.

RAN LOCAL How can political support help prevent radicalisation or violent extremism at local level?
RAN LOCAL held a one-day meeting in Berlin about the importance of gaining political support to prevent radicalisation or violent extremism at local level. Local coordinators from different

European cities, as well as politicians and experts on politics, came together to tackle this topic with the aim of developing tangible tips and strategies to ensure political support (whatever the situation and starting point may be).

But why is political support so important for local P/CVE (preventing and countering violent extremism) work? The beliefs and ideas behind a local strategy are a political matter. Funding and political leadership are crucial to ensure a sustainable strategy and to deliver hard messages to the public. During the meeting on 27 September, participants worked on gaining political support in different scenarios. They looked at the social and the security narrative and considered issues such as timing, flexibility and the goal of their story and how to deliver it.

RAN Policy and Practice 'Engaging with communities'

Communities can play a central role in the prevention of radicalisation. But when this is executed poorly, the results could lead to stigmatisation and be counter-productive. On 27-28 September, RAN organised a policy and practice event in which community representatives, community workers, local P/CVE coordinators and national policymakers discussed the challenges and preconditions for successful community engagement in P/CVE. All stakeholders agreed that trust, transparency, reciprocity and a long-term agenda are key in community engagement, and essential to ensure a successful collaboration during times of crisis. Th ex post paper will provide models from several EU countries, as well as practical and policy recommendations with examples of good practices on how to successfully incorporate these ingredients in community engagement.

Right-wing extremism in schools

All over Europe, far-right movements have increased their influence. Although the rhetoric is not always considered part of a more violent right-wing extremist movement, these new attitudes to society and democracy have caused difficulties for pupils, teachers and schools. On 23-24 October, the RAN EDU workgroup gathered teachers, projects leaders and researchers who deal with issue of right-wing extremism and its manifestations in the classroom. The meeting aimed to better understand the complexity of right-wing extremism, how to challenge its manifestations and to prepare for a larger meeting on the topic in 2019.

The working group explored some of the issues secondary schools are currently facing. The meeting focused on German, Swedish, Danish projects and methods of dealing with the manifestations of right-wing extremism in schools.

Therefore, the question posed was, 'how will a variety of activities through tools and projects keep young people away from right-wing extremist influences? Some of the key messages included:

- improve the school and classroom climate by making it safe for pupils to share their opinions, even if these are considered to be bad. Grievances and frustrations are a root of extremism that need to be dealt with. Empathic dialogue is considered a crucial tool to create such a climate and should be part of the curricula;
- long-term, structural and evidence-based programmes dealing with right-wing extremist manifestations should be available for schools in order to make a real impact. Better dissemination strategies can help schools in finding tailor-made programmes that meet their unique needs.

Study visit 'Learning from adjacent fields: Exploring the relation between hooliganism and extremism'

'If we were interested in football, we would have become football players'. This was written by a member of a Polish hooligan group, under an image of hooligans showing right-wing extremist symbols. Participants agreed that far-right and right-wing extremism is a rising phenomenon among hooligans and Ultra groups. Co-organised with the Polish Police and Institute for Social Safety, the study visit (25-26 October) presented preventive and exit measures for hooliganism and RWE.

RAN EXIT and RVT 'The Challenge of resocialisation'
On 6 November, the fifth Policy & Practice event will take place on 'the challenge of resocialisation: dealing with radicalised individuals during and after imprisonment'. The main objective of Policy & Practice events is to allow insights of practitioners to feed into national policies, as well as to have national policy priorities guide the daily work of practitioners. Nearly all those sentenced for violent extremism and terrorism are released from prison and/or subject to probational conditions at some point. Preventing recidivism is of the utmost importance. This requires state of the art exit work in and outside prison. Released offenders are vulnerable to re-enter the slippery slope of violent extremism. High expectations, complexities in multi-agency cooperation and a relatively small target group are the most frequently mentioned challenges in the field of exit work. This event aims to look at these challenges and to provide recommendations for improvement.

During this event, participants will consider how national authorities and practitioners can strengthen each other's efforts in enabling, facilitating and delivering exit work. 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.

RAN LOCAL Academy: what is the role of local coordinators in the prevention of radicalisation?
Multi-agency working can be defined as 'working in collaboration across organisations to enhance services in order to meet complex needs'. The value of multi-agency work in response to the threat of violent extremism has been widely debated and supported among policy, law enforcement, security, prison, probation and education stakeholders. It was also raised during our conference in Luxembourg in October.
However, how do we actually collaborate in a multi-agency setting? Each year RAN LOCAL dedicates a meeting to specific cooperation with one of the needed partners. This meeting will be an addition to that: let's practice multi-agency cooperation. During the meeting from 7 to 8 November,we will simulate specific cases and learn how to deal with them. Where to start when dealing with a radicalised person? Which partners on the local, regional and even national level need to be involved? We will practice multi-agency cooperation in three different scenarios. Participants will either take part actively in the exercises by assuming a role in the scenario or they will observe the exercises. In addition, Canadian colleagues will present a game they have developed to learn about multi-agency cooperation. We will play this as well.

Steering Committee

The fourth and final Steering Committee meeting of 2018 will take place on 13 November. It will focus on current and new policy priorities and developments of, among others, the new Steering Board. Furthermore, the topic of youth involvement will be discussed. In this, the RAN Young Empowerment Academy will be presented. In addition, the Directorate-General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture will present their initiatives to involve youth in preventing radicalisation leading to violent extremism. Finally, relevant themes for the 2019 Annual Activity Plan will also be discussed.

RAN EDU 'Primary education, young children and extremist influences'
The RAN EDU working group will discuss the contribution of primary education in preventing radicalisation. First, we will look at what children between the age of 5 and 12 are able to cope with when it comes to conflict. After a discussion on child development and cognitive ability, RAN EDU will discuss what primary teachers can do to build resilience to violent extremism. What does age-appropriate PVE look like? What are the challenges teachers face and how can they be supported?

On 15-16 November, a medium-sized group will meet in Lisbon (Portugal) to help draft recommendations aimed at empowering teachers and others in primary education to contribute to PVE.
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.

Latest Publications

Building resilience in the classroom using testimonials from victims and formers
Building resilience in young people is key to preventing extremism and boosting the positive forces in society. This can be accomplished in a classroom setting, where pupils can learn a great deal from victims' and formers' testimonials. This paper identifies the related didactical principles, sets out practical guidelines and presents inspiring examples on how the voices of victims and formers can be used to influence pupils.

RAN Study visit on 'PVE and CVE in and around asylum centres and within refugee communities
How can we incorporate lessons from the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) into the asylum sector? That was one of the main topics for the RAN study visit to Malmö (Sweden). Swedish practitioners and policymakers presented the Swedish approaches, lessons and challenges, and discussed these with their European colleagues.

Policy & Practice video

Building resilience among young children
Our fourth Policy & Practice video is now online! Interviews were conducted in Warsaw on 4 July and feature practitioners and policymakers discussing solutions on how to build up children's resilience to give them a chance. Watch it here and share it among your social media networks!

Radicalisation Awareness Network
RAN

Highlights from the RAN Editorial Board

Newsletter: Thematic Report – Gender and Women in Radicalisation

Last summer, Joana Cooke and Gina Vale published two valuable reports on the so-called Islamic State. The first looks at the number of [Islamic State-affiliated women and minors returning](#) from Islamic State to their country of origin. The second discusses the [indoctrination and recruitment of children in ISIS territories](#). For the first time, these reports bring together verifiable empirical data to support policymakers and practitioners in understanding the scale and scope of the issue. The reports confirm the discussions held at UNWomen and CTED on the need for policymakers and practitioners to disaggregate data in a more refined and granulated manner. Building on this and taking into consideration other related concerns, UNWomen and OCHCR will publish gender-mainstreaming guidelines for C/PVE.

Another useful summary on gender and radicalisation is RUSI's Compendium [Research on Gender and Violent Extremism in Kenya](#). Also, the [International Human Rights Observatory](#) hosted a conference in Rostock, Germany. Participants from the UK and Germany discussed gender and countering violent extremism. A key finding from the conference is that there is little information and data available on women in right-wing (and variants) organisations.

Given EU and RAN support to North Africa, the *Konrad Adeneaur Stiftung* and *Centre ISIS pour Femmes et Développement* edited volume (2017) [Women and Resistance to Radicalisation](#) which provides fresh insight into the issues and challenges. This emphasises the cross-cutting nature of the challenges of radicalisation and extremism for women, as well as the challenges in overcoming extremism. Collectively, the volume indicates there is a need for a country, as a whole, or indeed by region and response. Meanwhile, across Europe, there is a [steady increase](#) in convictions (and some argue over sentencing) of women involved in radicalisation and terrorism related offences. Consequently, more work is needed at women's prisons and for gender considerations to be integrated into the rehabilitation and probation services.

Need to achieve measurable outcomes in PCVE? Discover MASAR

MASAR (which means "path" or "trajectory" in Arabic) is an app produced by Hedayah and the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). It helps designers tasked to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE) projects to achieve measurable outcomes in terms of reducing radicalisation and recruitment to violent extremism.

MASAR assists practitioners and policymakers in creating a plan for monitoring, measurement, and evaluation (MM&E) of P/CVE programmes and projects. MASAR guides users through a comprehensive process for helping design P/CVE programmes, collecting information about the user's activities and recommending resources to support the development of goals and objectives, indicators, data collection methods and evaluation. RAN CoE has uploaded relevant papers produced by the network.

 Find out how to access the app [here](#).

RAN Calendar

November 2018	December 2018
RAN EXIT & RAN RVT (Policy & Practice event) The challenge of resocialisation <u>Date and location</u>: 6 November, Vienna, Austria **RAN LOCAL** Academy: what is the role of local coordinators in the prevention of radicalisation? <u>Date and location</u>: 7-8 November Paris, France **RAN EXIT & H&SC** 'A multi-problem target group: the influence of mental health disorders and substance abuse on EXIT work' <u>Date and location:</u> 7-8 November Vienna, Austria **RAN EXIT** <u>Date and location</u>: 8-9 November Lisbon, Portugal **Steering Committee** <u>Date and location</u>: 14 November Brussels, Belgium	**RAN H&SC** 'Methods for evidence-based approaches to prevention activities and countering violent extremism within the social and health domain' <u>Date and location:</u> 6-7 December Amsterdam, The Netherlands **RAN RVT** 'Preventing revictimisation' Date and location: 10-11 December Manchester, UK

RAN EDU 'Primary education, young children and extremist influences' <u>Date and location</u>: 15-16 November Lisbon, Portugal **POL and P&P (Policy & Practice event)** 'Optimising Triple P (Police – Prison – Probation)' <u>Date and location</u>: 22 November Paris, France **RAN C&N** 'Communications to drive offline interventions' <u>Date and location</u>: 22-23 November Amsterdam, Netherlands **RAN YF&C** 'Working with men in prevention and disengagement from violent extremism' <u>Date and location:</u> 29-30 November Manchester, UK **RAN YOUNG** 'Review of RAN Collection practices' <u>Date and location:</u> 29-30 November Riga, Latvia	
The full calendar for 2018 is available online	

If you are interested in attending a forthcoming RAN meeting, please contact the appropriate RAN CoE staff member. Check the RAN website for a <u>full list of contacts by working group</u>.

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