

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 01** > [RAN activities since the last Update](#)
- 03** > [Coming up](#)
- 04** > [Podcast: A day in the life of a Deradicalisation Programme Manager](#)
- 04** > [Latest publications](#)
- 05** > [Calendar](#)

Website:
ec.europa.eu/ran



RAN ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST UPDATE

Steering Committee Meeting (Brussels, 5 March)

The RAN Steering Committee welcomed newly appointed RAN YOUNG Working Group leaders Mimoun Berrissoun and Simón Cabrera Ebers. They will be responsible for leading the RAN Young Academy, empowering 13 groups of young people from across the EU to benefit from workshops and local mentors in the development of their own prevent initiatives. It is worth noting that no fewer than 28 groups of 71 young people aged 17-25 applied for participation.

RAN LOCAL Working Group co-leader, Jessika Soors, announced her decision to leave RAN with a view to start campaigning to become a member of the Belgian Parliament.

The Commission informed the SC members about six projects. Each project has been developed by groups of like-minded Member States with the aim of understanding different national approaches and to collaborate on prison leavers, research, national support at the local level, mental health, the training of imams and on far-right extremism.

The SC members agreed that RAN should further collaborate with Member States to deliver on the call for exchange between policy and practice. Also, a panel or subtopic on gender aspects should be considered (if relevant) for all RAN events.

The SC meeting discussed the delivery of fact books on Islamist Extremism (IE) and Far-Right Extremism (FRE). The SC considered the main aim of the factbooks is to provide both practitioners and policymakers with knowledge about narratives, symbols and movements within FRE and IE. This will invite the target audience to develop approaches tailored to their local circumstances. A needs assessment will be delivered before the documents are drafted.

The SC also discussed the preparation on the format to review (evaluate) exit work. This format will be tested on exit programmes in May. Several Working Groups highlighted their 2019 work on evaluation.

RAN YF&C: The role of sports and leisure activities in P/CVE (Lisbon, 6-7 March)

Academics, practitioners and police officials discussed the role of sports and leisure activities in P/CVE. The focus was on the problems that occur at athletics clubs and stadiums where extremists exploit the sports arena.

Participants exchanged views about the root causes of these problems and the challenges they bring. They discussed the reasons sports clubs sometimes shy away from the challenge of radicalisation, such as lack of resources and understanding of the problem, as well as a fear to act. The group drafted a call to action, including recommendations such as awareness training courses (e.g. of police officers and club staff) and thinking about ways to activate and support non-extremist fans.

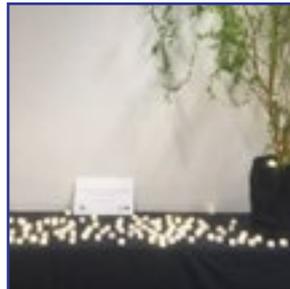
A main takeaway for this meeting was that problems originate from outside of the stadium and sports clubs. Therefore, part of the solution needs to be sought at local networks with local solutions.

The meeting also focused on the role that sports and leisure activities can play in P/CVE. To contribute constructively, it is important to define the goals, such as working on positive identity, dealing with frustration or softening up the "us vs. them" mentality. Not all sports clubs have sufficient resources to do so, and role models in sports may not always be able to make a difference. As such, it is beneficial for professional youth workers to cooperate with sports clubs.

The 15th European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism (Brussels, 11 March)

More than 120 victims of recent or past attacks attended this meeting, which was organised by the European Commission and the RAN Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism Working Group. EU Commissioner for the Security Union, Sir Julian King, as well as representatives of Member State governments expressed their support for victims of terrorism.

A one minute of silence was held to remember those who have died in terrorist attacks. Victims at the meeting delivered moving testimonials. They shared powerful and touching messages about how the attacks impacted their life and how they found the strength to move on. The head of the French Brigade de Recherche et d'Intervention shared his own remarkable experience as a first responder during the Hypercacher kosher and the Bataclan terrorist attacks. A special part on the programme was devoted to the EU's support to victims of terrorism. The choir of the European School Brussels I (Uccle) performed, during which all attendees gathered around the wishing tree to light candles and create a temporary monument of remembrance.

**RAN LOCAL: How are we doing? – Evaluation (Vienna, 13-14 March)**

The aim of the meeting was to identify how to evaluate the strategies and interventions used in the field of preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalisation (P/CVE). Although evaluation is often considered difficult and time consuming, without evaluation, it is not possible to confirm whether you are on the right track. Evaluation is also important for the long-term: the P/CVE programmes and strategies implemented today are shaping the P/CVE strategies of the future.

Participants at this Academy meeting discussed how to make evaluation feasible and achievable. They tested an evaluation questionnaire and guidelines on their own P/CVE projects. They also helped to improve these formats in a way that would assist local P/CVE coordinators throughout Europe to start evaluating their work. The improved formats will be shared in the upcoming ex post paper.

RAN H&SC: Mental Health disorders and violent extremism (Turin, 13 March)

Practitioners at this expert meeting noted that some of their radicalised clients suffer from specific neuropsychiatric disorders such as autism, Asperger's syndrome or schizophrenia. Through presentations and case studies, the specific characteristics of these disorders were discussed in depth. The focus was on how these are related to vulnerabilities and protective factors for radicalisation. It was agreed that specific characteristics of every mental disorder may impact the interventions applied.

Participants also discussed possible solutions, such as providing new 'rules' for people with ASD and the role of medication in the prevention of radicalisation. Among the difficulties discussed was the assessment of radicalisation for psychotic patients. Several recommendations for both practitioners and policymakers dealing with neuropsychiatric disorders emerged from the meeting and will be outlined in the ex post paper.

RAN Study visit: Responding to crisis / building resilience (Manchester, UK, 21-22 March)

This was RAN's first study visit of 2019. It had a multi-agency character. The aim was to explore the broad scope of immediate reactions and long-term recovery and healing efforts that Manchester and its communities undertook in response to the horrific suicide bombing at the Manchester Arena on 22 May 2017. By engaging with the exceptional variety of both municipal and community-led measures, the visit provided participants with inspiring examples of recovery and future resilience building. It certainly provided invaluable food for thought to guide them in their own local contexts. Participants were mainly impressed by how Manchester reacted as a unity and by how the city assisted the victims.

RAN YOUNG: Academy Session 1 (Amsterdam, 25-27 March)

The RAN YOUNG Empowerment Academy is a capacity building programme for young people with a focus on developing a local P/CVE initiative. Overall, the aim of the programme is to empower young people so they are willing and able to take action in the field of P/CVE!

During the first session, participants got to know each other and worked on developing the skills and competences needed to become youth influencers. They followed workshops on 'How to give and take feedback' and 'How to create win-win situations'. They also worked on their project plans with the methods SWOT, GROWTH and SMART, and pitched their ideas. The meeting was not only fun, but very productive. The group will meet again in May to discuss the challenges they faced and progress made.

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: Evaluating the impact of victims' testimonies (Prague, 10-11 April)

The RAN RVT will consider how to evaluate the power of victims' voices when it comes to testimonials of terrorist attacks. It is important to develop evaluation tools and methodologies to measure the impact victims can have on the target audience. The working group will benefit from the presence of representatives with experience in testimonials, victims with experience in delivering testimonials, as well as experts on evaluation.

The aim of the meeting is to map existing evaluation tools in order to measure the impact of victims' testimonies. Another goal is to present inspiring practices and provide practical guidelines to victims of terrorism on how to evaluate their efforts. The ex post paper will include an overview of evaluation efforts to measure the impact of victims' testimonies and provide practical examples of evaluation tools and the methodology to use.

RAN YF&C Academy: Children growing up in an extremist family (Rome, 24-25 April)

Children can be radicalised at all ages, but there are some who have grown up in extremist families and who have been exposed to (violent) extremism from a very early age. Children growing up in families with extremist influences are specifically vulnerable to becoming radicalised themselves. Additionally, children who fled Syria, Iraq and other areas of conflict may have been exposed to trauma and violence, adding to the potential risk factors.

Building on previous RAN expert meetings on vulnerable children growing up in extremist families, this Academy meeting aims to disseminate insights and examples of working practice among a broader group of (new) practitioners in the field. Topics to be discussed include dealing with traumatised children who have been exposed to violence or have other mental health issues. The trans-generational aspect of extremism and how to re-socialise children who have been removed from an extremist home are other issues to be addressed. This large-scale meeting will bring together new practitioners in the field of youth work, health and social care, education, local municipalities, as well as experienced practitioners, including experts of adjacent fields such as Exit work, among others.

RAN H&SC: Grooming for terror – Manipulation and control (Bucharest, 24-25 April)

We often look at the needs of the victims of grooming, who eventually become perpetrators of terrorist acts. Past RAN Working Groups have focused on resilience and meeting the needs of these vulnerable individuals with risk assessments and other tools.

Following a three-fold approach, the meeting will aim to learn from experiences on working with groomers and their victims from adjacent fields. First, participants will discuss the psychology of groomers. Secondly, they will look at the strategy and tactics they use. Lastly, participants will combine these findings to see what implications this has for health and social care workers in the prevention and countering of violent extremism (P/CVE). Several specific case studies will be presented. The practical lessons drawn from this will be included in the ex post paper

PODCAST: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A DERADICALISATION PROGRAMME MANAGER

Meet Anissa Akhandaf, Deradicalisation Programme Manager in the city of Antwerp, Belgium. Anissa explains how she deals with radicalisation in her work.

Listen to the podcast [here](#)

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

[RAN POL Joining Forces: Dissemination, Implementation and Evaluation](#)

Dissemination is a key word in this ex post paper. How do Member States currently disseminate RAN POL lessons and recommendations, and what are examples of where successful dissemination has led to implementation of good practices? What can be employed to achieve even more widespread dissemination? This ex post paper is primarily intended for the RAN POL Points of Contact and stakeholders like EUROPOL and CEPOL.

[RAN LOCAL Local-level management of far-right extremism](#)

This paper presents recommendations on how to deal with far-right extremism. It is written for local and regional preventing and countering coordinators.

[CSEP The nine essentials to consider while engaging in online P/CVE campaigning](#)

This paper offers nine essential tips and tricks for online campaigning. These essentials can be used by civil society organisations entering the realm of social media and the internet as part of their strategies in the prevention and countering of violent extremism (P/CVE).

[A Nimble \(NMBL\) Approach to Youth Engagement in P/CVE](#)

This handbook aims to bridge the gap between frontline practitioners and youth, to facilitate their better coordination towards P/CVE objectives.

[RAN H&SC & RAN EXIT Multi-problem target group: the influence of mental health disorders and substance abuse on Exit work](#)

When alcohol, drug or medicine abuse are at play, what can practitioners do to help a person suffering from serious mental health disorders? This paper discusses approaches to dealing with multi-problem target groups.

[RAN C&N The role of Informal Actors in delivering effective counter- and alternative narratives](#)

This paper is written for front-line practitioners who are planning and carrying out alternative and counter-narrative campaigns.

[Policy Paper Developing a local prevent framework and guiding principles – Part 2](#)

This paper builds on the insights of and complements the RAN paper Developing a local prevent framework and guiding principles published in November 2016. It adds new information from cities rather than replacing recommendations.

[RAN EXIT Academy Communicating with radicalised individuals in an exit setting](#)

This manual aims to help and inspire exit work practitioners in their communication with (former) extremists, based on the expertise of experienced professionals.

RAN Calendar

April 2019

Multi-agency meeting RAN POL – C&N

Current and future most used and most watched narratives and strategies of far-right extremists and Islamist extremists

4-5 April

Stockholm, Sweden

RAN RVT

Evaluating the impact of victims' testimonies

10-11 April

Prague, Czech Republic

RAN YF&C Academy

Children growing up in an extremist family

24-25 April

Rome, Italy

RAN H&SC

Grooming for terror – Manipulation and control

24-25 April

Bucharest, Romania

May 2019

RAN YOUNG Academy session 2 – Challenges and progress

7-8 May

Bordeaux, France

RAN Study visit

In-depth exchange set-up of three exit programmes in three Member States

7-8 May

Berlin, Germany

RAN POL

The role of police in the reintegration and risk management of released violent extremist offenders and returnee fighters coming home

8-9 May

Member State workshop

Developing in-depth train the trainer

22 May

Rotterdam, Netherlands

Multi-agency meeting RAN LOCAL-H&SC

Taking mental health issues into account in CVE and PVE

28 May

Paris, France

Policy & Practice event

A mental health approach to understanding and preventing violent extremism

29 May

Paris, France

The [2019 calendar of RAN events](#) is available online

If you are interested in attending an upcoming 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

Niederlande

+31 (0)20 463 50 50 (office)

ran@radaradvies.nl

Would you like more frequent updates on RAN's activities? Gain 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