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.

RAN ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST UPDATE

Policy and Practice event ‘Narratives and strategies of far-right extremists and Islamist extremists’ (Amsterdam, 4 July)
A group of 42 policymakers, practitioners and researchers from 15 EU Member States gathered to discuss P/CVE strategies and alternative narratives used by far-right and Islamist extremist groups. They reviewed the three most overarching and often-used narratives used by both extremist groups, and outlined the key factors to consider when developing P/CVE strategies.

In mixed break-out groups, participants first discussed the underlying grievances and emotions addressed by extremists and the elements of the narratives used by extremists. They also formulated strategies and concrete actions, including counter or alternative narratives, that can be applied at national and local/regional level to counter extremist narratives. A campaign to ask people to get their DNA checked (“Dare to DNA”) is one example of an idea that came up as a possible campaign to showcase the fact that most people have a mix of DNA from different origins. This is an alternative to the far-right narrative that ‘the national race should stay pure’. Examples of elements to be considered when formulating P/CVE strategies that were discussed include: the importance of the local context in which each extremist narrative manifests itself; the need to understand and “listen” the underlying grievances that resonate with the targeted audiences; and the undesirability of adopting a similar us vs. them discourse.

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.

PODCAST: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RADICALISATION PREVENTION PRACTITIONER

Meet Ilham Atrass, advisor for institutional relations and European affairs, in the local government of Castilla-La Mancha, in Spain. Her work focusses on the prevention of radicalisation, as well as the promotion of projects related to social cohesion.

She is currently serving as the co-chair of RAN’s LOCAL working group. Asked about RAN, she says: “I learned so much, especially when it comes to exchange experiences and knowledge and identify best practices from all over the world”.

Listen to the podcast here.
LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Education and radicalisation prevention: Different ways governments can support schools and teachers in preventing/countering violent extremism

Education is, arguably, central to preventing young people from being attracted to violent extremist ideologies, organisations and movements – whether extreme Islamist, far-right or other threats to cohesive, inclusive societies. This paper examines how governments support P/CVE programmes or initiatives in schools in EU Member States.

RAN P&P Practitioners’ Working Paper Approaches to countering radicalisation and dealing with violent extremist and terrorist offenders in prisons and probation

The prevention and countering of radicalisation and terrorism landscape is changing rapidly, and prison and probation practitioners must constantly respond and adapt to these changes. This paper presents the practitioners’ perspective, and provides an overview of some of the principal findings emerging in the field of radicalisation, in the context of prison and probation.

RAN Study visit Crisis response: Lessons from the Manchester Arena bombing of 2017

On 21 and 22 March 2019, RAN visited Manchester for an inspiring study visit. Meeting with local actors and communities, RAN learnt how communities in the city and the surrounding county have been responding to and recovering from the Manchester Arena attack on 22 May 2017.

RAN YOUNG Guidelines for young activists: how to set up a P/CVE initiative Paper 2

The RAN YOUNG Empowerment Academy (RYEA) held its second session on 7 and 8 May in France: participants attended workshops, worked on their projects plans and learnt how to make an elaborate planning for their initiatives. This paper describes the structure and steps involved in developing a project plan for a preventing/countering violent extremism initiative.

RAN Policy & Practice A mental health approach to understanding violent extremism

There is growing acknowledgement that there are no simple causes or ‘easy fixes’ regarding mental health and violent extremism. This paper offers guidance for practitioners and policymakers developing or revisiting mental health approaches to radicalisation and violent extremism.

RAN Study visit, Strasbourg’s P/CVE approach and its multi-agency partners, 21-22 May 2019

A mixed group of RAN practitioners visited the city of Strasbourg to get an insight into their local preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) strategy and the reasoning behind it. This paper contains an overview of the insights and learnings from this study visit.

EDITORIAL BOARD — FRANCESCO FARINELLI’S MUST-READS

Francesco Farinelli is programme director at the European Foundation for Democracy. His work focusses on the role of ideology, propaganda and fake news in media narratives and examines the relationship between history and fiction.

Non-jihadi, women, and children after the fall of the ‘caliphate’

European non-jihadi foreign fighters

The territorial collapse of the self-proclaimed Daesh ‘caliphate’ is likely to result in the return of European foreign fighters to their home countries. While returning Jihadist combatants are included in the European counter-terrorism high-priority watch lists, the phenomenon of non-jihadi combatants who travelled to Iraq and Syria to fight Daesh (as many as 2000 fighters since 2013) seems overlooked. In the article written by Ariel Koch (2019) “The Non-Jihadi Foreign Fighters: Western Right-Wing and Left-Wing Extremists in Syria”, the author highlights the risk from underestimating the potential threat posed by non-jihadi foreign fighters “motivated by western-oriented right-wing and left-wing political extremism”. Dr Koch reflects on the fact that the ideological rivalry between the two opposite extremist groups seems to have been duplicated into the Syrian war zones “where they can actually fight and experience war”. He recalls the concept of “cumulative extremism” described in 2006 by Roger Eatwell, Koch also indicates that right- and left-wing extremist online propaganda, including the type directed to the anarchist sphere, seems to be insufficiently monitored and blocked by authorities. Especially in comparison to the manner the IS internet activities and online propaganda are dealt with. Since the Syrian arena has revealed the existence of western foreign fighters linked to opposite extremist ideologies such as the right-wing “counter-Jihadists” and
the left-wing “anti-fascist” groups, additional research is required to investigate the phenomenon and its potential threats. Ariel Koch’s article is a step in this direction.

**Women and children still in Syria and Iraq**

There are 52,808 foreigners now recorded in Syria and Iraq with the group including up to 6,902 foreign women and up to 6,577 foreign minors. The article written by J. Cook and G. Vale (2019) “From Daesh to ‘Diaspora’ II: The Challenges Posed by Women and Minors After the Fall of the Caliphate”, gives an overview of the facts in numbers regarding foreigners in Syria and Iraq. In addition it describes the difficulties Western countries are facing when dealing with foreign terrorist fighters and their families. The article describes the reflections on increasing repatriation rates for minors, the difficulties experienced in assessing repatriation parameters, the efforts to put in place rehabilitative programmes for women and the decisions of stripping or denying citizenship to some of those who are still considered a security threat.

**Child soldiers within Daesh**

Child soldiers are particularly vulnerable to developing post-traumatic disorders. To provide better answers to their needs, it is crucial to unpack their role within Daesh. The chapter written by Mia Bloom (2019) “Weaponizing the Weak: The Role of Children in Terrorist Groups” as well as the article written by Asaad Almohammad (2018) “ISIS Child Soldiers in Syria: The Structural and Predatory Recruitment, Enlistment, Pre-Training Indoctrination, Training, and Deployment” are precious contributions on this topic and provide insights into the role of children within Daesh.
## RAN Calendar

### September 2019

**RAN YOUNG Academy**  
Session 3 Challenges & progress  
10-11 September  
Madrid, Spain

**RAN Study visit**  
Restorative Justice  
12-13 September  
Zagreb, Croatia

**Event in collaboration with the Finnish EU Presidency**  
P/CVE trends in the EU  
17-18 September  
Helsinki, Finland

**Policy & Practice event**  
Extremists being released from prison: community and family acceptance  
19 September  
Helsinki, Finland

**RAN RVT**  
Preparation Remembrance Day 2020  
24 September  
Brussels, Belgium

**Steering Committee**  
25 September  
Brussels, Belgium

**Member States workshop on far-right extremism**  
26-27 September  
Rome, Italy

---

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**  
Veenmarkt 83  
NL – 1019 DB Amsterdam  
Nederland  
+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

---

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.