

# RAN Update 8



July, 2013

*This is an update on the progress of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You have participated in a RAN working group activity, or you have registered your interest in the network. Therefore you receive this e-mail, as do some 500 other people. If you do not want to receive such e-mails, please let us know. Feel free to distribute this RAN Update and suggest others to subscribe.*

## Invitations to RAN meetings

All interested in one of the eight RAN Working Groups are registered. The invitees for RAN meetings are selected in consultation with leaders of a Working Group organising the event. Having participated in one meeting does not guarantee an invitation to a following one, as the subjects on the agenda may vary.

## Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

Last RAN Update dated from early June. Since then, the following RAN activities took place:

- **RAN VVT met in Madrid on 6-7 June** to discuss how the narratives of victims can be brought to youngsters in the educational system in an effective and respectful way. Some 50 participants were present, including 10 local practitioners and representatives of the Ministry of Interior of Spain who opened their doors to co-host the meeting. Discussion showed the importance of using narratives that are attractive and understandable for the target audience, which is not only the perspective of the victim. Also, to make them effective, the testimonies of victims and narratives should be placed in a broader educational context.
- **RAN P&P held a meeting on 12-13 June in Madrid** with some 40 participants. The main subject of the meeting was how to recognise signs of radicalisation and how to deal with radicalised prisoners and people in probation programs. Discussion focused on how to assess risks and translate these assessments into fitting interventions in prison and probation contexts. In an interactive exercise, participants experienced the challenges of making a good risk assessment with limited information and the importance of information sharing with other community organisations and authorities involved. Fergus McNeill introduced 'desistance theory' which focuses on the process of individuals who stop offending and voluntarily choose a different way of living that is free of criminality.
- **On 13-14 June, RAN Prevent met in Berlin** to discuss how to win the 'hearts and minds' of people at risk of being radicalised, with a special focus on Islamist extremism and far right extremism. The meeting was attended by some 20 practitioners. An exploration of the 'spectrum of intervention' consisted of introducing and discussing theoretical models in this field. It was concluded that there are no undisputed comprehensive models from a practitioner view, but they do help to understand and talk about radicalisation processes. Multiple practitioners and formers presented their initiatives to prevent radicalisation such as:

- Upstanding Neighbourhoods: peer education approach as a method of providing a given neighbourhood with the tools to challenge extremist ideology.
- Cypher A.D. 7: counter narrative film to influence young Muslims.
- VAJA: Acceptance-based youth work with right wing orientated groups.
- Haver: to promote social cohesion and minimising anti-Semitism through training and education programmes.

One of the important aspects within the discussions was the relationship between government and community actors/NGO's and the necessity of trust to make this relationship effective to prevent radicalisation.

- The **Steering Committee** of the RAN met in **Brussels on 25 June**. Progress on the preparation of the EU Programme to Prevent Radicalisation into Violent Extremism and Terrorism was discussed for which the RAN recommendations are an important contribution. The outline of the RAN Collection of approaches and practices was discussed and will be further developed to become a web-page on which both practitioners and others can find guidance to support their work. A call was made to collect more practices within RAN on preventing EU citizens to become foreign fighters in Syria and dealing with returnees, since this is a challenging topic for several Member States.
- On **28 June RAN HEALTH** held the first of three smaller, thematic meetings. In **Barcelona** a group of some 10 participants discussed patient confidentiality and the related possibilities and challenges in the Member States. Two researchers from the University of Galway (IE) joined this meeting and will support the Working Group.
- On **July 8 RAN DERAD** gathered in Ljubljana to exchange experiences of deradicalisation work. Some 15 participants, mostly coming from Central-Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, informed each other on the local situation they work in and what kind of programs they use. The second day some practices were discussed more in depth. Given the history of the Western-Balkans, the violent past and traumas were mentioned as important triggers for radical behaviour. Lack or shortage of restorative work is paying out negatively. Nationalist and/or ethnocentric messages in the press and politics fuel distrust and hatred. Building coalitions or round tables where local NGO's, schools, municipalities, police, etc. cooperate in raising awareness and taking action against radicalisation is considered a fruitful step on the grass root level. The same applies to building capacity in neighbourhoods to allow people to take responsibility for dealing with problems at local level such as addressing prejudices, hate crime and ethnic or religious tensions. It was also stressed that the programs for radicalised or hate filled people not only should be telling how they should think but give them the chance to formulate this themselves. In this respect group discussions with peers, as a method, prove to be useful.

## Activities coming up

- On **16-17 September RAN INT/EXT** plans to have a meeting in cooperation with **RAN PREVENT** on community engagement and working with families in relation to foreign fighters. The meeting will take place in **Antwerp**. By exchanging practices with practitioners who engage with (diaspora) communities and/or work with families of radicalised individuals or foreign fighters, the aim is to extract lessons. These lessons

can be used both at a policy and practitioner level in relation to the current phenomenon of foreign fighters going to and returning from Syria. Some 35 attendees are foreseen.

- **RAN HEALTH** will have a second thematic meeting on **27 September** on the subject of 'Policy and procedures'. The outcomes of the three thematic meetings will be used in a paper to be presented at a plenary Working Group meeting in **November 2013**.
- **RAN P&P** will have a meeting with core members on **8 October** in **Copenhagen** to discuss and prepare the programme of their plenary meeting in **December** in **Riga** on best practices on working with radicalised people in prison or during probation.
- On **15-16 October**, **RAN VVT** will meet in **Rome** to discuss the role of social media and other online tools as carriers for the voices of victims to reach youngsters.

## Survey on awareness training

ISDEP<sup>1</sup> (Improving Security By Democratic Participation) project managers would appreciate your help in completing a questionnaire to develop resources to support training provision for front line practitioners to prevent, recognise and respond to all forms of radicalisation. ISDEP is a project funded by the European Commission, based on the Prevent strand of the EU Counter Terrorism Strategy. You can complete this questionnaire either personally in your work capacity or on behalf of your organisation. Strict anonymity will be maintained and the final results of the survey will be disseminated back to you. Links are:

<https://evaluation.oncampus.de/evasys/online.php?pswd=1KZLJ>

<https://evaluation.oncampus.de/evasys/online.php?tan=V4XRL>

<https://evaluation.oncampus.de/evasys/online.php?tan=464NH>

<https://evaluation.oncampus.de/evasys/online.php?tan=PJCFX>

<https://evaluation.oncampus.de/evasys/online.php?tan=XV3HE>

<https://evaluation.oncampus.de/evasys/online.php?tan=9VX5F>

<https://evaluation.oncampus.de/evasys/online.php?tan=PKKXA>

English version

Dutch version

German version

French version

Bulgarian version

Italian version

Czech version

This survey is being undertaken with practitioners across UK, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Italy. But people from other countries are welcome as well to react. More information? [isdep.manager@gmail.com](mailto:isdep.manager@gmail.com).

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties/projects-database/home\\_2011\\_isec\\_ag\\_rad\\_2147\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/security-and-safeguarding-liberties/projects-database/home_2011_isec_ag_rad_2147_en.htm)