

# RAN Update 9



October, 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 700 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.*

## Current RAN matters

- In cooperation with practitioners, the RAN is working on the further development of the **RAN Collection of Promising Practices**. Around 60 practices have been identified so far and categorized within eight practitioner approaches to counter radicalisation; Training of first line practitioners, Deradicalisation and disengagement, Conversation and dialogue, Community engagement and empowerment, Education of youths, Family engagement and the empowerment of women, Counternarratives and countermessaging and Institutional infrastructure. The Collection remains a work in progress. Plans are made to make the Collection available for practitioners through a dedicated webpage.
- **Foreign fighters to Syria** has become one of the most urgent topics within the RAN. Besides the RAN INT/EXT meeting on this issue that took place in Antwerp (see below), plans are under consideration to organise a cities conference on this topic at the beginning of 2014.
- On 23-24 September the Belgium Ministry of Interior hosted a **conference on the prevention of violent radicalisation**. Presentations were delivered on both the European Commission policy on the issue, and on the achievements and recommendations of RAN. The RAN DERAD co-chair delivered interventions at two workshops. Belgium Minister Milquet concluded the conference launching several policy initiatives.
- A first, closed, meeting of **RAN France** (national initiative of French RAN members) is organised the 10<sup>th</sup> of October in Paris. Some 20-30 participants will join for a day of exchanges and networking. For more information, please contact: Guillaume Denoix de Saint Marc - [gsaintmarc@afvt.org](mailto:gsaintmarc@afvt.org). **RAN Netherlands** was launched some months ago by Hamp Harmsen ([HHarmsen@ggz nederland.nl](mailto:HHarmsen@ggz nederland.nl)) and others.

## Working Group activities since the last RAN Update

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

- On 16-17 September RAN INT/EXT held a meeting in cooperation with **RAN PREVENT** on community engagement and working with families in relation to foreign fighters to Syria. The meeting took place in Antwerp and was attended by some 48 practitioners. The focus of the meeting was to share experiences between practitioners who engage with (diaspora) communities and/or work with families of radicalised individuals or foreign fighters with the aim of extracting lessons on both

the practitioner and policy level. Some of the key factors in good practices that came forward were:

- Match objectives with interventions tailored to the specific context;
- Building trust is essential, work with existing networks/ relationships;
- Use facilitators/ key figures that speak the language (literally and metaphorically) for outreach purposes;
- Developing community engagement through coordinated multi-agency efforts.

These and more conclusions of the meeting are brought together in the Declaration of Good Practices with Foreign Fighters for Prevention, Outreach, Rehabilitation and Reintegration.

- **RAN HEALTH** held a second thematic meeting on **27 September** in **Copenhagen** on the subject of 'Policy and procedures'. During this subgroup meeting the participants discussed the existing policies and procedures in the MS and which guidance is needed for the health practitioners. The meeting resulted in a conversation on what next steps could be in the MS and in what way RAN Health could support that. It turned out that the participants were expecting the most from sub-regional support on this.

## Activities coming up

- **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 on **11-12 December** in **Berlin** on training to enhance awareness and treatment of radicalisation in prison and probation settings.
- On **15-16 October**, **RAN VVT** will meet in **Rome** to discuss in what way (indirect) sources of testimonies of victims of terrorism could become an aspect of educational programmes for youngsters on radicalism awareness.
- **RAN POL** will organise a working visit to the UK on **10-11 December** to experience the UK approach, activities and developed projects with local practitioners.
- **The RAN SC** will come together on **17 October** in **Brussels** to further discuss the RAN Collection of Promising Practices and to reflect on the updated policy recommendations from the WG's. The following day the SC will attend the third and final meeting of MS experts on the European Commission Communication on Preventing Radicalisation towards Terrorism and Violent Extremism. The RAN Collection will feed into this Communication.
- A third thematic meeting of **RAN HEALTH** will take place on **22 November** in **Amsterdam** on the subject of 'Escalation structure and awareness'.
- On **19-20 November**, **RAN PREVENT** plans to organise a study visit to the newest EU member state, Croatia, to discuss prevention of radicalisation in post-conflict areas.
- **RAN HEALTH** will present the outcomes of the three thematic meetings at a plenary Working Group meeting , to be organised in early 2014.

## Contact details

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