

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](#).

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RAN High Level Conference



Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, and Commissioner for the Security Union, Sir Julian King, hosted the Radicalisation Awareness Network High-Level Conference (RAN HLC) in Luxembourg on 11 October 2018.

During the HLC, participants explored different ways forward to effectively tackle emerging and persisting challenges of radicalisation to violent extremism and terrorism. Two main issues were discussed:

- **Children** returning - with or without their families - from Daesh-held territory after the collapse of the so-called Islamic State. And, related to this topic, the issue of child refugees, who are fleeing from conflict zones to the EU.
- **Rehabilitation of released offenders** in view of preventing recidivism of those who served sentences for terrorism-related offences. In addition, participants discussed detainees imprisoned for non-terrorist offences who have been radicalised. The focus was on how to prevent them from committing future acts of violent extremism.

More than 200 participants attended the meeting, including ministers and high-ranking officials from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Malta, the Netherlands and Romania. Senior officials of almost all Member States and first-line practitioners of RAN Working Groups also attended.

Conclusions

Returnee children

- Creating short- and long-term assessments to better understand children's needs, vulnerabilities and potential risk factors is crucial to provide adequate care and support to children after their arrival and throughout the entire process of their re-socialisation and reintegration into society;
- Adopting an individual care plan to address the specific needs of child returnees and refugee/migrant children is also essential.

Participants agreed that the use of proper tools to monitor the progress and effectiveness of intervention methods applied to support these children has to be implemented.

RAN will continue to support Member States in 2019 by setting guidelines on how to engage with these children, for example by presenting recommendations of the [Returnee Manual](#). It includes guidelines and recommendations on how to engage with these children.

Rehabilitation of released offenders

Lessons can be learned from the Member States where released offenders do pose problems. Member State authorities can prepare themselves and develop support and monitoring programmes preceding the forthcoming release of (former) extremists after detention. Special intervention units might be necessary but the importance of prevent work was stressed in the discussion above all. First-line practitioners dealing with former detainees should be able to recognise signs of (recurring) radicalisation. Staying vigilant is key.

- Risks assessments should be applied to terrorist offenders and for radicalised inmates, both during imprisonment and after release. Risk and needs assessments are an effective tool for preparing detainees for rehabilitation and integration, provided that both security risks (e.g. the risk of recidivism) as well as the needs of the individual (e.g. need of support while re-entering the community) are captured in such an assessment equally.
- Families and communities should be more involved in the reintegration process. To address the difficulties, they also need to receive guidance and training.
- A media strategy should be put in place concerning the modes of communication when prisoners are released, and politicians should call for a more balanced communication strategy about released offenders.

Concerning both issues, it remains difficult to decide how to address the role and responsibility of independent media. There is a need for protecting these children, instead of stigmatising them, to avoid future risks.

It was noted that dissemination of knowledge through the right forms of education and training can provide specific groups with the confidence they need, such as teachers dealing with children and prison and probation officers dealing with prisoners. Both topics will continue to be explored within the RAN activities in 2019.

An ex post paper will be published in our papers' section, watch this [space](#).

RAN Plenary

The RAN 2018 Plenary was held in Luxembourg on 12 October 2018. It was organised back-to-back with the RAN High-Level Conference. The set-up of the Plenary was similar to previous years:



- opening panel on anticipated trends and challenges for 2019;
- break-out sessions on the RAN working groups' plans;
- other possible future RAN developments (new aspect).

Opening Panel

The opening panel provided important insights. Firstly, there was consensus that RAN's expertise should reach relevant stakeholders in the European Union and beyond. Other related challenges for RAN include:

- more effectively connecting research to practitioners' experiences;
- encouraging the development of structures similar to RAN's at national level;
- engaging with third country stakeholders;
- formulating success indicators for RAN work.

Working group plans

- **Police and Law Enforcement (RAN POL):** improve the dissemination and implementation of RAN POL lessons, explore the role of the police in reintegration and risk management of released violent extremist offenders and of returnees, keep track of current and future most used and most watched narratives and strategies.
- **Education working group (RAN EDU):** develop and disseminate a Manifesto 2.0, tackle growing far-right extremism in schools and explore the role of students as influencers, evaluate the impact of educational practices and develop tools for evaluating teachers, provide specific consideration of refugee children in schools.
- **Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism working group (RAN RVT):** impact measurement of victims' testimonials, improve social cohesion using victims' testimonials following a period of violence, organise European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism together with the European Commission
- **EXIT working group (RAN EXIT):** focus on quality control and the impact of EXIT interventions, explore the use of restorative justice and the role of gender in EXIT programmes
- **Prison & Probation working group (RAN P&P):** consider how insights and recommendations produced by P&P are disseminated in Member States, create an overview of the different prison regimes for radicalised/terrorist offenders, following the release of violent extremist offenders

- **Communication and Narratives working group (RAN C&N):** gain a better understanding of the narratives of far-right extremists and Daesh-related organisations, consider outreach to those over the age of 30, propose to organise a RAN Academy focused on designing effective campaigns, develop guidelines for media communication following a terrorist incident
- **Health & Social Care working group (RAN H&SC):** outline the working group's role in P/CVE and explore how it can contribute to RAN work, map challenges and good-practice principles in preventing a sense of alienation versus integration of migrant and refugee populations, prevention work for health and social care workers with undocumented migrants and unaccompanied minors, perspectives on puberty and radicalisation, neuropsychiatric disorders, especially the identification of vulnerabilities and needs
- **Local Authorities working group (RAN LOCAL):** consider the role of ideology in every working group meeting, study the relationship between local authorities and education, consider the division of roles and responsibilities between national and local authorities dealing with the resocialisation and reintegration of returning Daesh fighters
- **Youth, Families and Communities working group (RAN YF&C):** consider the impact of extremism on communities, work increasingly with newly arriving communities, consider the role of sport
- **Young working group (RAN YOUNG):** RAN YOUNG Academy to empower young people to create their own P/CVE initiative.



The future of RAN

RAN received the following guidance on a variety of topics for RAN work in 2019.

- **Partnering with policymakers.** One idea raised at the Plenary was to organise more meetings focused on a specific topic instead of a specific working group. These could take the form of a multi-agency meeting on a specific topic.
- **Holding expert meetings and ensuring knowledge transfer.** The balance should be maintained between in-depth meetings and meetings that welcome newcomers in the field, from which RAN can also benefit.
- **Supporting local actors and practices** is vital and RAN needs to efficiently disseminate information that it has collected.
- **Evaluation and research** are key elements for all working groups.

- **Regional representation** is important. RAN should look into ways it can contribute to certain regional RAN structures.
- **Including third country practitioners in RAN** is an element that may be expanded in the coming years, although it is important to be very specific about which countries should be included.
- **Catering to national needs.** One idea is to organise activities focussing on regions of Europe that share a similar context/ challenges where RAN could support cross-border Member States-led projects.
- **More involvement of judicial services** (in particular prosecution) has been considered.

Video & Podcast

Video – RAN High-Level Conference – Child returnees and released prisoners

Commissioners **Dimitris Avramopoulos** and **Sir Julian King** spoke about shifting threats in 2019 at the High-level Conference, focusing on child returnees and released radicalised and terrorist offenders.

Eight practitioners, **Diana Schubert**, Managing Directory Criminal Prevention, City of Augsburg (Germany), **Michal Dzurko**, NGO: Not in our town (Slovakia), **Alexander Ritzmann**, Brandenburg Institute for Society and Security (BIGS) (Germany), **Florian Tomuta**, Chief maximum security wing Arad prison (Romania), **Werner Prinzjakowitsch**, Vienna Association of Youth Centres (Austria), **Fleur Nollet**, Support Centre School and Safety (Netherlands), **Maria Edel**, Finnish National Agency for Education (Finland) and **Adele Ellis**, Luton Council, Safeguarding services in relation to radicalisation, Children and Families Social Work (UK), all shared their key messages about how to address these challenges. Watch the video [here](#).

Podcast – P/CVE oriented resocialisation after detention

To discuss P/CVE oriented resocialisation after detention, we spoke with: **Torben Adams**, Head of Division - International Corrections Cooperation, PCVE Unit, Advanced Staff Training (Bremen, Germany), **Annie Devos**, General Director of the “Maison de Justice” (Belgium), **Finn Grav**, Senior Advisor at the Norwegian Prison and Probation Service (Norway), and **Yola Wanders**, Director of the Vught Prison (Netherlands). Listen to the podcast [here](#).

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