

This is an update on the activities of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). You receive this e-mail, along with more than 4 000 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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Survey results: quality of RAN meetings

The RAN CoE used a survey during the first quarter of 2018 to evaluate the quality of seven RAN meetings. We asked for your views on working documents, other participants and logistics.

Some 96 % were either satisfied or very satisfied with the quality of exchanges during meetings (52 % very satisfied).

The RAN CoE was also heartened to hear that 88 % of participants found that the meeting they attended helped them identify inspiring responses and practices useful for their work in preventing radicalisation.

Participants are keen on following up meetings with action. Most have already shared the meeting documents with colleagues and contacted other meeting participants, using a mailing list put at their disposal after the meeting.

An encouraging 23 % of the respondents have already adjusted their working methods, while 65 % plan to do so in the future!

And last but not least, some 99 % were either satisfied or very satisfied with the logistics (77 % very satisfied).

RAN activities since the last RAN Update

PTSD, trauma, stress and the risk of (re)turning to violence

A key issue for the RAN H&SC working group is the role of the health and social care professionals in signalling and treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on a wide variety of radicalised individuals. The meeting in Lisbon on 10-11 April focused on victims of terrorist attacks, returning foreign fighters, returning women and children, veterans as well as refugees arriving from warzones – and the impact of their return/arrival on their surroundings.

One key message formulated by the policy-makers and first-line practitioners present from the (mental) health and social care fields was that these professionals need better awareness – and ultimately to be better equipped – to deal with traumatised individuals. Trauma-informed care could be helpful, but this would need to be followed up with concrete actions, such as:

1. Changes to make the physical environment more inclusive (buildings, sites, office spaces, etc);
2. Development of evidence-based training and a workforce development framework.

The role of police in preventing and countering left- and right-wing extremism

A varied group of 38 people from 18 EU countries and Albania, including police officers, researchers on left- and right-wing extremism (LWE and RWE) and NGO experts on exit and disengagement, gathered in Rome on 12 and 13 April to discuss a topic that was new to the RAN POL working group.

Participants learned about the different types of RWE and LWE, new developments, strategies, modus operandi and possible counterstrategies. Examples were provided from Greece and Germany.

Even though it was difficult to categorise the different types of LWE and RWE present in different countries, participants could see similarities, for example regarding the responses from both sides to actions from the other (the reciprocity), or extremists' knowledge of laws, borders and freedom.

Much research has been carried out on RWE, but knowledge of LWE seems scarce. The knowledge that this research provides is however key when it comes to preventing and countering violent extremism, as well as implementing a multi-agency approach. Participants acknowledged the importance of dialogue with extremists, before or during demonstrations and as a part of a personalised approach. This could prevent individuals from gravitating towards extremist groups, or help people move towards disengagement and resocialisation.

Joint event RAN YOUNG and C&N: inspiring young people for effective campaigns – young people and communication experts learn from each other

Used as preventative tools, counter- and alternative narratives can offer individuals different perspectives on societal challenges. When developing these narratives, it is crucial to determine the target audience, the credible messengers to deliver the narrative, and the options for dissemination. Depending on the choices made, involving young people as peers and credible messengers in the development and dissemination of the counter- or alternative narrative can be key.

The joint meeting between RAN C&N and RAN YOUNG in Madrid on 23-24 April brought together young people and communication experts from 18 different EU countries. They discussed existing (and ongoing) campaigns and tested new campaign ideas. The meeting was intended to draw up some practical guidelines to improve the effectiveness and outreach of interventions and narratives, thus inspiring young people to develop even more effective campaigns. Some of the lessons learned were:

- be **persuasive** and **positive** and keep it **simple** and **short** in order to maximise impact;
- avoid doing harm by pushing your counter- or alternative narrative to audiences whose interest in extremist propaganda might actually be triggered.

Meeting participants included experienced communication specialists, first-line practitioners such as exit workers, employees of civil society organisations who develop (online) counter- and alternative narrative campaigns, and RAN YOUNG participants – both young experts and youngsters who either work in the field or who want to prevent radicalisation alongside their day jobs.

The ex post paper on the meeting will provide practical guidelines for practitioners and young people on how to set up counter- and alternative narrative campaigns, and how young people can be involved.

RAN CoE Policy and Practice event: ‘Involving young people in counter- and alternative narratives’

Involving some of the target audience in your campaign team gives you a head-start when designing a counter- or alternative narrative campaign that will be successful. This is the only way to have precise information on the audience’s discourse. Since the target audience in the RAN context is often people under the age of 25, it is essential to involve young people in the campaign if you plan to use counter- and alternative narratives.

During the Policy and Practice event of 25 April in Madrid, we looked into the cooperation needed between authorities, communications specialists and young people to develop effective counter- and alternative narratives – and specifically the role that young people can play in this. The aim was to learn from each other and to enhance understanding of the challenges facing the different actors. A fruitful discussion took place on how authorities can support and enhance the creation of effective counter- and alternative narratives, and how young people can be involved.

Participants also agreed that national authorities can support young people – in criticising extremism and promoting inclusion – without prescribing messages. It does seem that working together on a campaign remains a challenge for young people and authorities. This could potentially be resolved if the authorities set the campaign goal, but leave young people the freedom to establish the message, messenger, media, audience and call to action.

The ex post paper from this event will provide recommendations on how to enhance both policy and practice when involving young people in counter- and alternative narratives.

In total, practitioners and young people from 18 countries were present, alongside people from 17 countries active in policy.

RAN EXIT: Speaking with (former) extremists in an Exit setting

The second meeting of the Exit Academy took place in Rotterdam on 25 and 26 April. The focus was on communication techniques in exit work, both online and offline. The meeting gathered approximately 40 participants: experienced exit workers, social workers, psychologists, probation service representatives and former extremists. The meeting, organised in close collaboration with the ICSA (International Cultic Studies Association), benefitted from the presence of two experienced (20+ years) exit workers in the field of cultic groups, who shared their methods and techniques when dealing with cult members, from the moment they are contacted by the families of those affected, to the implementation of the exit work. From the meeting strong commonalities emerged between techniques used by a wide range of exit workers in different contexts, although not all participants shared the same view of the goals to be achieved by exit work (mainly in terms of disengagement or de-radicalisation).

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 LOCAL: learning from adjacent fields (hooligans, sects, criminal youth gangs, school)

In terms of policy, the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism is relatively young. There are however similar policy fields, addressing the same target group as CVE and PVE policy, but which are more established. We refer to them as ‘adjacent phenomena’ and they include youth gangs, hooliganism and honour-related crimes. What can we learn from the strategies, interventions and underlying assumptions about these phenomena? During the meeting, we will learn from and discuss these topics with experts and discover lessons equally applicable to preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.

We will work towards an overview per phenomenon of what we can learn from the field with regard to:

1. Ideologies/reasons to join
2. Recruitment
3. Policy level solutions and challenges

Participants should go home inspired and with new ideas about how to tweak their P/CVE strategies and interventions, and whom to connect with at a local level.

RAN YF&C: evaluating family support

Evaluation is the only reliable way of measuring the effectiveness of work done, and can help improve working methods. It is also important in legitimising investment in family support related to P/CVE. But are there currently any strong evaluation methods and tools for family support programmes? What challenges are involved in evaluating such programmes? And how can the findings of the evaluation be adopted and implemented? In this meeting, experts on evaluation will share their experiences and explore how the lessons they provide can enhance or add value to existing family support programmes within the EU.

Steering Committee

RAN Working Group leaders meet with representatives from the European Commission and the RAN Centre of Excellence on a quarterly basis. The second Steering Committee meeting of 2018 will take place on 22 May.

This meeting will focus on the delivery of the first two RAN Policy and Practice events that took place on 4 April in Sofia and on 25 April in Madrid, and on the forthcoming events in the series. Participants will also discuss recent developments within the High-Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation (HLCEG-R).

The Steering Committee will also look at the outcomes of recent working group meetings and the surveys sent out after each 2018 meeting. Finally, the open call for creating an expert pool is also on the agenda.

RAN EDU and RAN RVT: boosting youth resilience by bringing strong voices into the classroom

The RAN EDU and RAN RVT working groups will come together in Madrid on 24-25 May to explore how the strong voices of victims and formers can support resilience-building among school pupils. The goal would be to boost positive forces in society. But how can we reach schoolchildren's hearts and minds to enhance their resilience?

The meeting is designed to support teachers, who create the circumstances in their classroom for young people to learn and grow. Voices of victims and formers can be extremely valuable in achieving these pedagogical-didactical goals.

Participants will discuss how to deliver testimonials, how to organise interaction with pupils - online and offline? They will look at how to prepare the pupils, the teacher, but also the victims. And they will talk about aftercare. Outcomes will be shared in the ex post paper.

Member State workshops on evaluating P/CVE programmes and interventions

The RAN Centre of Excellence is organising three one-day workshops for EU Member States on the evaluation of P/CVE programmes and interventions. The workshops will take place in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 30 and 31 May and 1 June. Workshop delegations will be nominated by national authorities and will be:

- national or local policy makers tasked with P/CVE evaluation;
- national or local practitioners tasked with P/CVE evaluation;
- researchers from universities or research institutes involved in P/CVE evaluation.

The workshops will provide an up-to-date overview of the effectiveness of P/CVE programmes and interventions: what works, for whom, in which circumstances and how? In addition, they will go into the different theories and methodologies for evaluation and they will offer a platform to share experiences and to discuss the institutional and political preconditions for P/CVE evaluation.

Update: embedding social- and health care workers in institutional structures

On 6-7 June the RAN Health and Social care meeting on 'Embedding social- and health care workers into institutional structures' will take place in Munich. The meeting builds upon the 2017 H&SC issue paper on multi-agency working and preventing violent extremism in the context of this working group, and will seek to identify concrete examples and cases of inter- or multi-agency cooperation approaches across the EU.

Having both policy-makers and practitioners relevant to both health and social care present, the meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss how professionals are currently embedded into institutional structures across the EU. Participants will look at the different models or approaches to multi-agency cooperation - some are mandated by law while others happen ad-hoc or pragmatically. Equally, some are formal structures and others informal. Some approaches are organised nationally, others regionally, locally or even between a few individuals in a particular context. As there is a plethora of approaches, structures and habits around 'working together', the meeting will keep an open mind and explore the options.

RAN expert pool: the RAN CoE wants you!

Are you a practitioner, academic or a policy advisor with proven relevant expertise in the field of countering violent extremism? Then apply to join the RAN expert pool! If you are selected, you'll be expected to:

- draft and evaluate RAN papers;
- participate in expert missions all around the EU and sometimes in non-EU countries (MENA, Turkey, Western Balkans);
- represent RAN at external events;
- be responsible for training missions.

Interested? Complete [this survey](#) and send your resumé by 31 May.

New publications

[RAN Annual Activity Plan 2018: a summary](#)

This summary of the RAN work plan for 2018 sets out the network's priorities for 2018, as well as the activities planned around topics such as children, narratives, engaging with communities, ideology and reciprocal radicalisation, evaluation, learning from adjacent fields, and resocialisation.

[Multi-agency working and preventing violent extremism, April 2018](#)

This RAN issue paper:

- introduces different models for multi-agency working;
- discusses the importance of specifying a threat;
- summarises key lessons gleaned from relevant meetings organised by the RAN H&SC working group.

[RAN POL: The role of police online in PVE and CVE, Oslo, 1-2 March 2018](#)

This paper is written for police wanting an overview of their options for preventing and countering violent extremism online.

[RAN LOCAL and YF&C: Collaboration between local authorities and communities in preventing violent extremism, Prague, 22-23 February 2018](#)

This paper builds upon the lessons learned previously, as well as findings from the RAN LOCAL and RAN YF&C joint meeting on 'Engaging with communities'. It is written for local coordinators, community workers and community representatives interested and involved in the prevention of polarisation and radicalisation.

RAN YOUNG page online!

We are pleased to inform you that RAN YOUNG now have their own web page, gathering outcomes from meetings and relevant papers. You can access it [here](#).

What's more, RAN recently released video made in Budapest at a RAN YOUNG meeting. Participants shared stories on their home countries to debunk stereotypes and to show that we have so much in common....do you feel the same? Don't hesitate to share the videos. And maybe the video will inspire you to share your own story! If so, please use the hashtag #SoMuchInCommon:

- [EN version](#)
- [FR version](#)
- [DE version](#)

RAN Calendar

May 2018	June 2018
<p>RAN LOCAL Learning from adjacent fields (hooligans, sects, criminal youth gangs, school) <u>Date and location:</u> 15-16 May, Lisbon (Portugal)</p>	<p>One-day workshop for Member States on the evaluation of preventing and countering violent extremism <u>Date and location:</u> 1 June, The Hague (the Netherlands)</p>
<p>RAN YF&C 'The evaluation of family support projects' <u>Date and location:</u> 17 May, Amsterdam (the Netherlands)</p>	<p>Study visit 'Youth involvement in Leicester' <u>Date and location:</u> 5-6 June, Leicester (UK)</p>
<p>Steering Committee <u>Date and location:</u> 22 May, Brussels (Belgium)</p>	<p>RAN H&SC 'Embedding social workers and health workers into new or existing institutional structures' <u>Date and location:</u> 6-7 June (Germany)</p>
<p>RAN EDU & RAN RVT 'Boosting youth resilience by bringing strong voices into the classroom' <u>Date and location:</u> 24-25 May, Madrid (Spain)</p>	<p>Study visit 'Juvenile extremist offenders in prison' <u>Date and location:</u> 7-8 June (Germany)</p>
<p>One-day workshop for Member States on the evaluation of preventing and countering violent extremism <u>Date and location:</u> 30-31, The Hague (the Netherlands)</p>	<p>RAN POL An exchange of experiences on police prevention in radicalisation. <u>Date and location:</u> 11-12 June, Dresden (Germany)</p>

	RAN YF&C 'Building resilience among vulnerable children' <u>Date and location:</u> 21-22 June, Stockholm (Sweden)
The full calendar for 2018 is available online	

If you are interested in attending a forthcoming 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:

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