

# SPOTLIGHT

JUN 2024 | 13 YEARS OF RAN

13  
YEARS  
OF  
RAN

**RAN**   
Practitioners



## 13 YEARS OF RAN



For 13 years now, the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) has been supporting first-line practitioners across the EU in their efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE) in their communities, both on- and offline. RAN has become a benchmark in networking and collaboration in the field of P/CVE.

This publication has been commissioned by the European Commission and has been prepared by REOC Communications on behalf of RadarEurope, a subsidiary of RadarGroup.



---

# Editorial

---

For 13 years now, the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) has been supporting first-line practitioners across the EU in their efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE) in their communities, both on- and offline. RAN has become a benchmark in networking and collaboration in the field of P/CVE.

---

In that time, the network has grown to some 6,500 members, from every corner of the EU, it has expanded to incorporate a range of different working fields, from Communications & Narratives (C&N) to Victims and Survivors of Terrorism (VoT) among many others, and has evolved to include the Western Balkans and a new network of young professionals.

Over the course of the past 13 years, the network has not only had to respond to new and emerging violent extremist threats, such as foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) to Syria and Iraq and lone actor attacks in EU Member States, but it has had to adapt and respond to global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as to the latest trends and innovations, such as the emergence of new digital tools and technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI).

Through regular Working Group meetings, expert-meetings, study visits, training events and publications, members of the network have had the chance to share and learn from one another, exchange insights, experiences and ideas, and

develop new practices. As RAN begins its next chapter, with the introduction of the EU Knowledge Hub on Prevention of Radicalisation, this final edition of the Spotlight magazine takes a look back at some of the achievements of RAN over the past 13 years and a look ahead at some of the challenges to come and how the Knowledge Hub is set-up to support policy makers, academics and first-line practitioners alike to deal with them. Please get in touch with the RAN Practitioners communications team on our email by clicking this [link](#).

**RAN Practitioners Staff**

---

# Contributors



01 Robert ÖRELL



02 Yolanda GALLEGU-CASILDA



03 Ana RODRIGUEZ CORDERO



04 Kelsey BJORNSGAARD



05 Anneli PORTMAN

# 10

## 13 years of RAN: A reflection

We spoke with Robert Örell, co-chair of the RAN Rehabilitation Working Group, about his experience of RAN and what impact it has had.

**I** RAN INTERVIEW

# 16

## The evolving P/CVE landscape

The past five years have been extraordinarily turbulent. Between 2019 and today, Europeans have weathered a global pandemic resulting in widespread and lengthy societal shutdowns, the heating-up of a major inter-state war on our geographical doorstep.

**A** ARTICLE

# 22

## The View: Current and new P/CVE challenges

In the final episode of RAN Practitioners' 'The View', an expert panel – consisting of Joana de Seus Pereira from RUSI, Kelsey Bjornsgaard from the Strong Cities Network and Isabella Pirlogea from RAN YOUNG.

**F** RAN FILMS

# 24

## Celebrating the network: RAN's 10-year anniversary

2021 marked the tenth anniversary of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). To commemorate and celebrate this momentous occasion, RAN Practitioners produced a special edition of the Spotlight magazine.

**F** FEATURE

# 28

## RAN at 10: Practitioners and achievements

To mark and celebrate the 10-year anniversary of RAN, RAN Practitioners produced a series of films which told the story of RAN and its members.

**F** RAN FILMS

# 30

## RAN practitioners: What the network means to us

For me RAN LOCAL has provided a platform through which to link with some amazing professionals all across Europe and beyond.

**P** RAN PROFILES

# 34

## European Remembrance Day: A 20th anniversary

Since 2004, 11th of March has been commemorated as the European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism (VRD), a day to remember the victims.

**F** FEATURE

# 38

## European Remembrance Day of Victims of Terrorism

A short but powerful film produced earlier this year provides a summary of the 20th European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism, held in Madrid on 11th March 2024. The film hears from the RAN VoT Working Group co-leads about the importance of the day.

**F** RAN FILMS

# 40

## RAN YOUNG and the crucial role of youth in P/CVE

RAN YOUNG was set-up in recognition of the importance of the role that young people can play in preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE).

**F** FEATURE

# 46

## The Knowledge Hub

Cultural approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE), particularly those which involve victims/survivors of terrorism and which aim to have a commemorative or healing aim, are difficult to get right.

**F** RAN FILMS

# 48

## The Knowledge Hub: The future of RAN

For 13 years, the Radicalisation AwarenessNetwork has stood as a beacon of support and collaboration for first-line practitioners across the EU.

**A** ARTICLE

# 54

## RAN Reporters series

Over the past few years, RAN Practitioners has been travelling around Europe to meet with members of the network to learn more about some of the work that they do.

**F** RAN FILMS

# Interview

I

## 13 years of RAN: A reflection.

# 010

**Robert Örell**

Robert Örell has more than two decades of experience in the P/CVE-CT field, working with rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremists.

We spoke with Robert Örell, co-chair of the RAN Rehabilitation Working Group, about his experience of RAN and what impact it has had...

### Why is RAN as important today as it was when it was first established back in 2011?

For several reasons. First of all, because of the proven efficiency and success overall. The sheer number of people who have participated, the practices that have been shared, the knowledge on how to prevent and respond to violent extremism that has been developed, wouldn't have been possible without a practitioner network.

But if we look at how the violent extremist threat has changed or developed over the years, such as the online environment, and how these actors thrive and work online, recruiting young people and spreading their messages, there's a continued need for RAN and its network of practitioners to continue to find solutions to tackle evolving and future threats.

### What positions have you held as a co-chair?

I have been involved in three different Working Groups that have transitioned over time. The first was the Deradicalisation Working Group, the second was the Exit Working Group. And the current is the RAN Rehabilitation Working Group.

### How has RAN evolved over the past 13 years?

A lot of things that have happened. When we started with RAN Deradicalisation, we looked at what were the aspiring practices that we could find, at that time they were mostly in Northwestern Europe, but we also engaged with practitioners and professionals in Southern and Eastern Europe, to see what type of practices we could find there. It was a time of mapping to see what was around, but also to look at what some of the adjacent fields

we could learn from. Then we saw the expansion of the network into new regions, such as the Western Balkans and post-conflict societies, dealing with a lot of ethno-nationalism and a high number of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families. Over the past years, we have also had interaction with partners in the USA, particularly addressing the threat from and challenges to address VRWE.

We had several online exchanges with the DHS practitioners network, and with the McCain Institutes Prevention Practitioners Network (PPN) to share the experiences and lessons learnt from the RAN, and collect inspiration and trend spotting from the US continent. These exchanges were fruitful and helped pinpoint the current challenges and inspirations for creating constructive change.

And in 2015, the UN Security Council adopted the resolution 2250, which stressed the inclusion of youth in peace and security. We also lobbied for this within RAN, which resulted in RAN YOUNG, a platform that gathered young activists, students and aspiring professionals who were motivated to become part of this field of work.

### How did the threat change over that time?

With the rise of ISIS and later the declaration of the so-called IS Caliphate in Syria and Iraq, the RAN could gather experts from across Europe to share promising practices for how to address the phenomena, how to deal with potential returning terrorists and draw up lessons for how to advance the field further.

Some of the inspiring practices came from Belgium where the local CVE coordinator and former RAN co-chair of RAN Local, Jessika Soors, shared the learnings from a local coordination point of view when it came to coordination and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, offering family support to concerned loved ones, and mobilising the community and positive resources.

Also in Germany, the Violence Prevention Network expanded their practice from primarily working with violent right-wing extremists, to also including violent Islamic extremists. When the COVID-19 pandemic came, the RAN network could continue to share practices on how to work in online settings. I had experience working with a US-based online support programme for violent right-wing extremists, and could easily collect and share these experiences and practices in the network. We hosted a RAN Webinar on the theme of Digital Exit Work where experts from Sweden, Germany, and Canada shared expertise on how to work in a digital environment.

This continued with the threat of disinformation, the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, and of course now with the current disinformation campaigns related to the European parliament election.

Here, we could highlight resources such as the DARE project – Depolarisation Activism for a Resilient Europe (an EU Erasmus+ project) providing materials for teachers and youth workers on how to deal with polarisation in classrooms or youth groups. The project mobilised the voices of youths,

developed the Educators Guide for Depolarisation, and animations on modern challenges such as polarisation, disinformation, radicalisation, and violent extremism.

<https://depolarisation.eu>

### What is the lasting legacy of RAN?

In 2011, when the Swedish Commissioner Cecilia Malmström initiated the RAN network and the idea that there could be a space for practitioners to share experiences and learning was innovative. There was nothing like this before. Just to achieve that, to have created a learning space for European practitioners and professionals to come together. Up until today, the RAN has hosted numerous workshops, trainings, webinars, and study visits to address challenges and risks and inspire practices and solutions. The collective drive would not be here without RAN.

I

**What has being part of RAN meant to you?**

Being part of RAN has been both a privilege and a great opportunity – most of all to help evolve the European field of practice in the P/CVE area, to meet all the engaged professionals from all across Europe, to learn about different practices and responses, and to be part of facilitating this dialogue and this exchange between practitioners has been inspiring and enriching. Personally, it has been really amazing to help build this effort and to share my own, professional experience.

**What are your hopes for the future as RAN evolves into the new Knowledge Hub?**

To bring in all the learnings from the past 13 years with RAN. My hope for the Knowledge Hub is to continue to keep the first-line practitioners at the centre. They are the ones who will carry out the work on a daily basis. To continue equipping and supporting them is most crucial when it comes to prevent further polarisation and radicalisation. Equally, I hope that the Knowledge Hub will continue to learn from adjacent fields. The work with preventing and responding to involvement in violent extremism is not happening in a bubble, the practices are not developed from a blank page. Much of this is grounded in social work, youth work, psychotherapy, and other professional fields. By continuing to evolve, curiously explore, and most of all share with each other, the field will continue to grow.

Another important area is to provide training for professionals in how to understand and respond to involvement in violent extremism. My experience is that most professionals, who

are trained in working with people and who are interested and curious to understand how involvement in violent radicalised groups works, are also able to contribute and become positive factors for those at risk of, or already involved in violent extremism, by offering alternatives and a way out from violence and hatred.

If we want to change the outlook of the current landscape of violent extremism, we have to engage with and talk with the individuals at risk. The Violence Prevention Network has a slogan that says, “We talk to extremists, not about them”. If we genuinely want to prevent and reduce involvement in violent extremist groups, we have to understand the motivations and engage with the individuals at risk.

Being part of RAN has been both a privilege and a great opportunity – most of all to help evolve the European field of practice in the P/CVE area, to meet all the engaged professionals from all across Europe, to learn about different practices and responses, and to be part of facilitating this dialogue and this exchange between practitioners has been inspiring and enriching.

## A Article 01/02



**Maura CONWAY**

Maura Conway is Paddy Moriarty Professor for Government and International Studies in the School of Law and Government at Dublin City University (DCU).

The opinions expressed are those of the author(s) and should not be considered as representative of the European Commission's official position.

# The 2024 threat picture

A

The past five years have been extraordinarily turbulent. Between 2019 and today, Europeans have weathered a global pandemic resulting in widespread and lengthy societal shutdowns, the heating-up of a major inter-state war on our geographical doorstep, the rapid ongoing development and widespread take-up of generative AI, our Israeli near neighbours being subject to the most significant terrorist attack since 9/11, our Palestinian near neighbours thereafter subjected to a campaign of massive and largely indiscriminate violence, and increasingly obvious signs of climate breakdown. The present moment might therefore be characterised as one of ‘polycrisis’ (i.e., extremely harmful interrelated emergencies)

In many ways too, these years have opened to critique much previous work on (countering) radicalisation. Especially because the previous five-year period (2014–2018) — some would say the previous 20 years — was almost wholly dominated by the threat from the so-called ‘Islamic State’ and violent jihadism more generally. And whilst the risks and threats posed by the latter have certainly not gone away, particularly outside of the Western context, a variety of other factors that have not been adequately addressed in recent years are now (back) in play. This is partly due to many policymakers, researchers and the media’s tendency to focus on the here-and-now without due regard to the past and future.

These include the rise of the extreme right, the re-emergence of ‘established’ terrorist groups, such as Hamas; and the potential for ecoterrorism. Each of these crises have radicalising aspects and each

have, separately and together, been profoundly influenced too by new media technologies, especially social media and messaging applications. And, increasingly, generative AI.

The Covid 19 crisis and attendant shutdowns have widened the gulf between the ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’ in Europe and globally. For many, the past five years have been characterised by curtailed access to housing, health, education, and stable employment. This widespread and seemingly increasing precarity is intertwined with growing political polarisation, inflammatory speech, mis- and disinformation, and conspiracies. Their amplification, especially online, will increase the possibility of political violence, including acts of terrorism.

The plight of Palestinian civilians as a result of the Israeli military response to the 7 October Hamas attack has become a touchstone in Jihadist propaganda and will likely continue to be leveraged as a compelling component of their content, calls to violence, and recruitment for years to come—even were a ceasefire to be agreed or the conflict to cease—and thus likely to encourage terrorist plots and attacks in the EU and elsewhere.

Additionally, developments in AI over the next five years have the capacity to supercharge the production of extremist and terrorist, especially conspiracist, text, image, audio, and video-based content around especially major ‘real world’ events, including elections; ongoing conflicts, including Israel-Gaza; and even natural occurrences (e.g., volcanic eruptions, solar events, climate change-induced weather events). This activity will also call

**The Covid 19 crisis and attendant shutdowns have widened the gulf between the ‘haves’ and ‘have nots’ in Europe and globally. For many, the past five years have been characterised by curtailed access to housing, health, education, and stable employment.**



into question real and true content, leading to an enormously polluted and unstable information environment.

The above could be exacerbated by not just the emergence of new online platforms and services attractive to extremists and terrorists but with no strategies in place to deal with them and other harms. Large tech companies — never mind medium, small, and micro companies — are no longer sufficiently well-staffed, due to the so-called ‘tech backslide,’ to respond effectively to known risks and threats.

Macro-level priorities on which European countries should work more closely together for countering radicalisation in the coming five years therefore include: stemming polarisation, especially the rise of the extreme right, via economic means, including importantly increasing EU Member State populations’ overall wellbeing via provision of affordable housing, world-class healthcare, accessible education, and steady and sufficiently well remunerated employment.

While there is plainly a diversity of views among EU member states on the present situation in Israel-Gaza and responses to it, resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an EU foreign policy priority. The EU therefore needs to come to an agreed position on ending the present violence and then steering a course, with partners, toward a new peace process.

Sustained attention to climate issues across the bloc is also a necessity. Youth, in particular, are losing patience with what they view as politicians’ empty words on this matter. Increasing climate-related weather events, along with inadequate concrete actions to address climate change have the capacity to grow and radicalise the climate movement.

It is crucial too that the EU institutions continue to provide funding and other resources to those researching in the (counter-)radicalisation space, especially given the 1.) fast-changing and ‘mixed, unclear, and unstable’ (MUU) nature of much contemporary extremism and terrorism, 2.) increasing importance of countering extremist-inflected mis- and disinformation by a variety of actors, including individuals, groups, and states, and 3.) increasing prominence of the online sphere in radicalisation and the concomitant decrease in researcher access to online data. An important factor in respect of reversing the latter will be the full implementation of DSA Article 40.

This points to another important expectation that many people have of the EU, which is to swiftly develop—and export qua the ‘Brussels effect’—appropriate regulations for the technology industry, including especially AI. Given the speed at which AI-based technologies are being developed and the potential for both existing tools and new ones to be used for a variety of harmful purposes, the further development of extremist and terrorist use of generative AI is a high priority threat to which these regulations will need to respond with alacrity.

Summing-up then, what Europe/Europeans have learned on (countering) radicalisation in the past five years ought probably to be that the context(s) out of which radicalisation arises and thus the direction(s) radicalisation takes can change quite rapidly. And those tasked with countering radicalisation must therefore be prepared to be agile in their response(s). Also not to be seduced by presentism and make every effort to take a 360° view of the threat environment.

**Macro-level priorities on which European countries should work more closely together for countering radicalisation in the coming five years therefore include: stemming polarisation, especially the rise of the extreme right, via economic means, including importantly increasing EU Member State populations’ overall wellbeing via provision of affordable housing, world-class healthcare, accessible education, and steady and sufficiently well remunerated employment.**



WATCH FILM



# The View:

# Current and new P/CVE challenges



In the final episode of RAN Practitioners' 'The View', an expert panel – consisting of Joana de Seus Pereira from RUSI, Kelsey Bjornsgaard from the Strong Cities Network and Isabella Pirlogea from RAN YOUNG – discuss the continued impact of the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas upon communities in Europe and its implications for the global violent extremist threat.





SEE MORE



# Feature 01/03

Celebrating the network: RAN's 10-year anniversary

# SPOTLIGHT

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST 2021



10 YEARS OF  
RAN



SEE MORE



2021 marked the tenth anniversary of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). To commemorate and celebrate this momentous occasion, RAN Practitioners produced a special edition of the Spotlight magazine, which took a look back at the first ten years of RAN, and a look ahead to the future. In the magazine, RAN members, Working Group leads, and the European Commission reflected on why it was established in the first place, the evolution of the network and the people at the heart of it. It also showcased its successes and achievements, including some of the successful projects and programmes that have been delivered over the years. You can access the publication and some of the featured '10-year anniversary' films within it on the RAN Practitioners website.



WATCH FILM



# 10 YEARS OF RAN



## Practitioners and achievements



To mark and celebrate the 10-year anniversary of RAN, RAN Practitioners produced a series of films which told the story of RAN and its members. The second in the series of films focused on the people at the heart of RAN, the first-line practitioners themselves. The film met a number of different practitioners from all parts of the EU, working in different fields, who described their experiences of RAN and how it has been able to help them. You can watch the film in full [here](#). The fourth and final film in the series reflected upon some of its achievements. You can watch the film in full [here](#).

RANFilms



# Profiles

# 031

Anneli PORTMAN



## RAN practitioners: What the network means to us

P

## Anneli PORTMAN

For me RAN LOCAL has provided a platform through which to link with some amazing professionals all across Europe and beyond. The subjects covered through the various Working Group meetings and trainings have really informed how P/CVE work can be done at a local level, both policy and practice.

The impact of RAN goes well beyond its constituency, as it has functioned as a living example of multi professional work, with an emphasis on gender, human rights and local impact. This has helped to make RAN's contribution a very concrete one. Personally, RAN has really taught me so much in my professional field.

The role of the European Commission in providing direction and topics for our meetings has meant that there has been a link between professionals and European policy making, which I appreciate a lot. I'm truly grateful for this experience.

Anneli Portman is co-lead of the RAN LOCAL Working Group.





# Feature

## 02/03

---

Ana  
RODRIGUEZ  
CORDERO

---

## European Remembrance Day: A 20th anniversary

---

Ana Rodriguez Cordero is a co-lead of the RAN Victims and Survivors of Terrorism (VoT) Working Group.

---



F

Since 2004, 11th of March has been commemorated as the European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism (VRD), a day to remember the victims, express solidarity and recognise the support that the European Union offers to all of them. The date coincides with the terrible terrorist attack perpetrated in Madrid on 11th of March of 2004, in which 192 people died and 1,893 were injured. Given the magnitude of the attack, the European Union decided to declare 11th of March as Victims Remembrance Day.

Twenty years after the Madrid attacks, it continues to be commemorated, this last anniversary having been a key event for remembering the victims and having once again given a voice to the testimony of the victims. Having this opportunity is not only key to keeping the memory alive, but the voices of the victims are a key tool in the fight and prevention of violent radicalisation.

On this anniversary, important authorities from different EU Member States, the European Commission and, of course, the presence of their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain attended, which greatly helps to increase the visibility of the event and promote it through the media.

The VRD has always maintained its fundamental essence, that of giving a voice to the victims, but given the evolution of social networks, its diffusion has been much greater in recent years, reaching many more people. Furthermore, given the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the use of digital tools, the event has become much more visible than it was at the beginning by having incorporated live streaming online and on television, as was the case on this last anniversary.

Without a doubt, the role of the RAN Victims and Survivors of Terrorism Working Group has been crucial in reaching the greatest number of victims: the establishment and operation of a stable, focused and effective network of victims of terrorism or other types of non-governmental organisations focused on assistance to victims of terrorism.

Being a participant in this work as a leader of the Working Group in the last four years has undoubtedly been an immense source of pride. I am happy to have been able to contribute to increasing the representation of victims of terrorism and solidarity of European citizens with all of them. Furthermore, as a group we have consolidated a network that I hope will last over the years, where victims can find a safe place whenever they want.

With the arrival of the new Knowledge Hub I hope that it will be taken into account that the VRD is a fundamental event to fight against radicalisation and protect the memory of the victims, which is why I hope that every 11th of March continues to be a key day on the agenda and that it'll be organised by people with extensive experience in this, since we must not forget the empathy and assertiveness necessary to work with victims.

Furthermore, I think it would be important not to forget that the voices of victims are a very valuable tool to work on the prevention of radicalisation and that victims of terrorism should have a key role in the new Knowledge Hub.

I don't want to forget everything that the victims of terrorism have taught me and how much I still have to learn from them, I hope our paths continue to cross and we can continue building.



WATCH FILM



# Remembrance Day



## European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism



A short but powerful film produced earlier this year provides a summary of the 20th European Remembrance Day for Victims of Terrorism, held in Madrid on 11th March 2024. The film hears from the RAN VoT Working Group co-leads about the importance of the day, as well as from a number of victims/survivors from across the EU who attended and/or shared their testimonies at the event. You can watch the film on the RAN Practitioners YouTube channel.



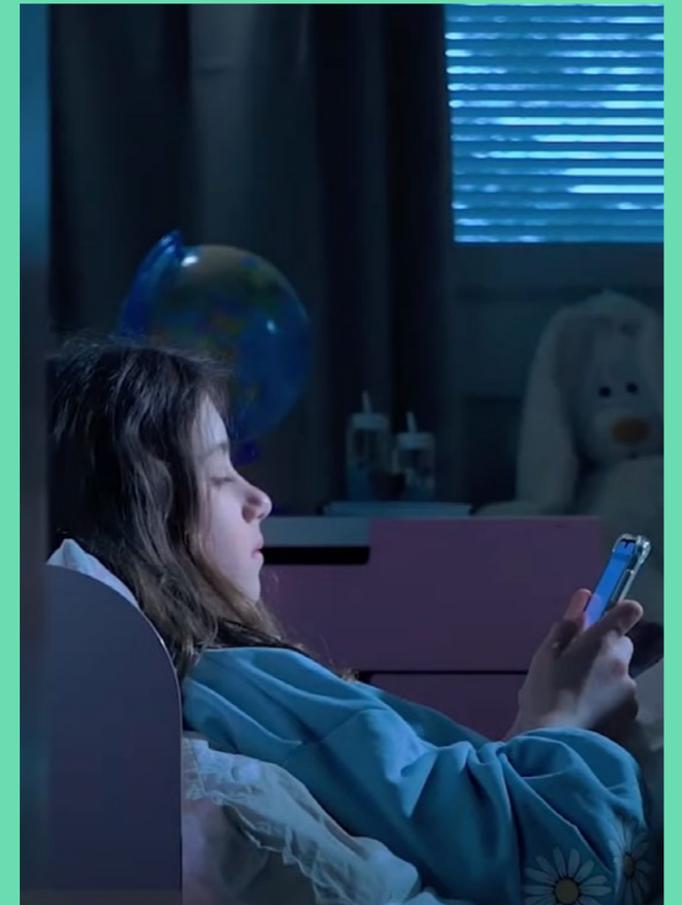


# Feature 03/03

Kelsey  
BJORNSGAARD

## Looking to the future: RAN YOUNG and the critical role of youth in P/CVE

Kelsey Bjornsgaard is the Programme Lead for the Strong Cities Network and lead facilitator for the RAN YOUNG Platform.



F



RAN YOUNG was set-up in recognition of the critical role that young people play in preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). RAN YOUNG built on RAN's networked approach to supporting and promoting good practice in the field to curate a network of young European professionals working in P/CVE in different capacities.

#### **The Importance of a youth voice in P/CVE**

Young people offer fresh ideas and a nuanced understanding of what their communities – and particularly young people within their communities – are facing. They are often abreast of the latest trends, such as new digital innovations and technologies and can inspire new ways to capitalise on them. In addition to representing their community to policy makers and practitioners, they are also a critical partner for engaging young people, especially those who may be sceptical of working directly with government-led interventions and activities. Involving young people meaningfully in P/CVE enhances our ability to plan, develop and deliver effective solutions to many of the current and future P/CVE challenges. They need to support to develop their capacities and pursue their vision for building safer, stronger communities in Europe.

#### **Sharing insights, perspectives, and ideas**

One of RAN YOUNG's main goals was to encourage the sharing of knowledge and experiences among its members. By bringing together young practitioners from varied backgrounds, EU Member States and professions – including researchers, policy makers and programme managers – the network created opportunities for members to learn from one another, engage with expert to hone key skills and contribute to the wider RAN Network. These vibrant engagements revealed a plurality of perspectives and in turn generated new ideas for how to tackle violent extremism.

#### **Reflecting on past achievements**

Over 50 dedicated and active young professionals have now graduated from the RAN YOUNG Platform. RAN succeeded in improving their knowledge and capability in P/CVE, created new connections and facilitated new collaborations, and positively contributed to P/CVE practice. The network has

F

Over the past four years, RAN YOUNG has brought together a network of young professionals from across Europe working in P/CVE to work together on this issue. In this time, I have been fortunate to work closely with the members of RAN YOUNG.

reviewed many successful practices, providing recommendations for how to incorporate a youth perspective and/or better engage young people in future projects/ interventions, and has developed new youth-focused activities that are now being delivered by alumni of RAN YOUNG.

#### **Addressing future challenges**

With the emergence of new digital technologies – which both give violent extremists new opportunities to radicalise and recruit and practitioners new opportunities to reach and engage our audiences online – young people, who have grown up with technology, can lead the way in helping us to better understand the latest digital trends and adopt and use these technologies. Given the pace of digital innovation it has never been more important for practitioners to get online. Young people working in P/CVE, as digital champions, can help us to do this. Furthermore, as global crisis continue to exacerbate local challenges – notably among them, a growing distrust among young people of government institutions at all levels – meaningful youth inclusion will be critical to ensure P/CVE strategies can provide for the needs of young people, build resilient, trusting relationships and encourage democratic participation.

#### **Looking ahead**

As we move forward, the need for more young people to get involved in P/CVE is more important than ever. In times of uncertainty and change, young voices provide hope and new solutions. As the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) evolves into the future Knowledge Hub, it must continue to support and amplify these voices – through the delivery of training, facilitating networking, fostering collaboration and promoting exposure – giving young people the tools and opportunities they need to make a difference. Let's continue to support this important work and empower the next generation of P/CVE practitioners.



WATCH FILM



# The Knowledge Hub



With the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) evolving into the 'Knowledge Hub' this summer, a short film introduces the new Knowledge Hub, by exploring some of the P/CVE challenges that it must address, why and how the 'Knowledge Hub' is set-up to support policy makers and practitioners alike to confront them, and the legacy that RAN leaves behind. To do this, the film hears from RAN practitioners, both old and new.



Yolanda  
GALLEGO-CASILDA  
GRAU

Head of Prevention of  
Radicalisation Unit- European  
Commission.

**A** Article 02/02



# The Knowledge Hub: The future of RAN

A

For 13 years, the Radicalisation Awareness Network has stood as a beacon of support and collaboration for first-line practitioners across the EU, tirelessly working to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE) both online and offline. From its humble beginnings, the RAN has flourished into a vast network of over 6,500 members, spanning diverse fields and regions, including the Western Balkans and a burgeoning cohort of young professionals. To all the practitioners who have been involved in the RAN journey, we thank you. Now we appeal for your continued engagement in our next chapter at EU level: The EU Knowledge Hub on Prevention of Radicalisation.

The Knowledge Hub will build on the RAN's achievements. This new phase will continue to support practitioners, along with policymakers and researchers, by integrating the wealth of knowledge gathered over the past 13 years in the RAN and addressing emerging challenges in P/CVE. In 2022, a targeted study was conducted to assess the RAN. A key piece of feedback was that practitioners saw a need for increased collaboration and dialogue between different stakeholder groups. The Hub will serve to address both this feedback and also to fulfill the commitments made in the EU Counter-Terrorism Agenda 2020 to create the Knowledge Hub.

The Knowledge Hub will be a collaborative platform, with new formats for its stakeholders to exchange together. There are many services and activities in the Hub targeted at helping P/CVE practitioners. Our new "Thematic panels" for example will be the main platform for experts to network, discuss, and brainstorm, consolidating knowledge within defined priority topics. There will be a renewed focus on training too. Training programmes offered by the Knowledge Hub will enhance skills and competencies in preventing and strategic communications through diverse formats, including offline, online, and hybrid sessions.

The Hub will focus on research too. It aims to consolidate, create, and disseminate knowledge and good practices, conducting medium-term in-depth studies to support the implementation of EU priorities. The Hub's foresight scenarios will provide insights into future trends and potential impacts. In addition to these services, the Knowledge Hub will run a mentoring programme for young experts and offers mutual job shadowing opportunities for experienced practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. These are just some of the activities and services the Hub will offer.

If you would like to learn more, you can read our [fact sheet](#) and [brochure](#). Work will also begin on the new Knowledge Hub website this summer. This work will ensure existing RAN materials, such as the publications page, remain searchable online after the transition. For now, follow our revamped [Knowledge Hub social media channels](#) for updates.

For 13 years, the Radicalisation Awareness Network has stood as a beacon of support and collaboration for first-line practitioners across the EU, tirelessly working to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE) both online and offline.



It is also very important to mention that the Knowledge Hub will develop a new comprehensive expert database. We encourage practitioners to register in this database when more details are shared over the summer. More details will be shared on the Knowledge Hub social media channels. Registering in this database will be needed to be able to participate in the activities of the Knowledge Hub. The expert database will serve multiple purposes: it will facilitate quick registration for Knowledge Hub activities, provide a better overview of the expertise of each participant, and enable the Commission to identify experts for events, consultancies, publications, trainings and more. Members of the database will have the opportunity to modify or delete their profile at any time.

As Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson said during the conference launching the Knowledge Hub, the Hub is very much about breaking down walls between disciplines. It is about building relationships. About building bridges between countries. In the Hub, we will continue to embrace the whole-of-society approach as promoted by the RAN. Practitioner engagement will be at the core of the Knowledge Hub. Stay tuned to the [Knowledge Hub social media channels](#) for more updates on Hub activities as we start this new chapter in P/CVE work at EU level!

**As Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson said during the conference launching the Knowledge Hub, the Hub is very much about breaking down walls between disciplines. It is about building relationships.**

F



RAN REPORTERS: GREEN HELPLINE



RAN REPORTERS: CESIE



RAN REPORTERS: WEB CONSTABLES



RAN REPORTERS: YOUTHRIGHTON



RAN REPORTERS: TESTIMONIES OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM



RAN REPORTERS: DEBUNKEU



RAN REPORTERS: SPORTS AGAINST RACISM IRELAND



RAN REPORTERS: AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU TRAINING



RAN REPORTERS: UTRECHT YOUTH WORK

# RAN Reporters



Over the past few years, RAN Practitioners has been travelling around Europe to meet with members of the network to learn more about some of the work that they do. Through a series of films called RAN Reporters, RAN Practitioners has uncovered some of the best and most interesting, innovative and new projects delivered in EU Member States and captured them on film. You can find a selection of just some of these films above.



F

-  RAN REPORTERS: GREEN HELPLINE
-  RAN REPORTERS: CESIE
-  RAN REPORTERS: WEB CONSTABLES
-  RAN REPORTERS: YOUTHRIGHTON
-  RAN REPORTERS: TESTIMONIES OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM
-  RAN REPORTERS: DEBUNKEU
-  RAN REPORTERS: SPORTS AGAINST RACISM IRELAND
-  RAN REPORTERS: AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU TRAINING
-  RAN REPORTERS: UTRECHT YOUTH WORK



Over the past few years, RAN Practitioners has been travelling around Europe to meet with members of the network to learn more about some of the work that they do. Through a series of films called RAN Reporters, RAN Practitioners has uncovered some of the best and most interesting, innovative and new projects delivered in EU Member States and captured them on film. You can find a selection of just some of these films above.





DISCOVER PAPERS



# RAN Papers

# 061

The RAN papers consolidate RAN's expertise and knowledge on radicalisation and violent extremism into an accessible format, providing up-to-date information. They introduce the latest research findings – collected by RAN– and include input from first-line practitioners. All are reviewed by relevant stakeholders within the RAN Editorial Board prior to publication. The Papers are published by RAN Practitioners.

# Papers

P



READ PAPER

In recent years the RAN Victims and Survivors Working Group has played an important role in raising awareness about the role victims of terrorism can play in P/CVE. In 2023, RAN Practitioners produced a paper which discussed how to respectfully and safely include victims/survivors of terrorism in P/CVE.

## Key Outcome 1

The central question of this meeting was how to ensure the wellbeing and mental health of victims/survivors when involving them in P/CVE efforts.

## Key Outcome 2

This should always be kept in mind when working with victims/survivors. P/CVE work can be challenging for any person (professional or not), and this target group is particularly vulnerable. Therefore, the question of their wellbeing should be inextricably linked to any discussion about their involvement in P/CVE.

## Key Outcome 3

Not all victims/survivors may wish to participate in P/CVE and their decision should be respected. For those who choose to be involved and wish to develop expertise in victim's rights and/or P/CVE,

063

## Involving victims/survivors of terrorism in P/CVE.



# Papers

P



READ PAPER



065

Practitioners' voices & perspectives: achievements & challenges.

The outcomes from the RAN Practitioners Plenary event, held in October 2023, are summarised in a paper published on the RAN Practitioners website. The paper provides an insight into some of the challenges and topics which practitioners deem to a priority to discuss and address throughout 2024 and beyond.

### Key Outcome 1

We need to build resilience via education while practitioners are working with increasingly younger target groups. Building resilience at a local level and among civil society is a key aspect, especially for practitioners from Eastern Europe.

### Key Outcome 2

At the same time, there is the need for mental health support for community representatives and NGOs involved in providing important P/CVE work on the ground.

### Key Outcome 3

Regarding the field of education and youth work, it was noted that early prevention should be emphasised, also in relation to the lone actors phenomenon, as well as in terms of vulnerabilities to right-wing extremism.

# Papers

P



READ PAPER



067

## Evaluation of secondary and tertiary level P/CVE programmes.

Throughout its 13 years, RAN has brought together practitioners from across Europe to share insights, ideas and good practices, often resulting in new collaborations and interventions. An important part of P/CVE work is to evaluate whether these interventions have been a success, in order to learn lessons for the future. A paper published by RAN Practitioners in 2021 discusses the key challenges that come with evaluating secondary and tertiary prevention programmes and provides examples of successful approaches.

### Summary of key challenges

Developing a shared understanding of the interventions and evaluations, their objectives and what success means.

Programme and Project design flaws (interventions not focusing on change).

Temptation to focus the evaluations on activities and outputs as they are easier to measure instead of focusing on meaningful changes.

Difficulty to make solid causality claims due to the multidimensional, sensitive and complex issues that are addressed in P/CVE programmes and projects.

Lack of needed resources, either financial, material or human resources, to successfully implement defined and validated evaluation plans.



# Discover More



## 13 YEARS OF RAN



For 13 years now, the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) has been supporting first-line practitioners across the EU in their efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE) in their communities. Stay tuned for updates on future events and activities on the Knowledge Hub website [here](#).



# Credits

## Photography

**Inside front cover**  
Stills from RAN Film

**Page 16**  
Marcos Paulo Prado

**Page 22–23**  
Stills from RAN Film

**Page 25**  
RAN Spotlight Cover: 10 Years

**Page 26**  
Courtesy of RAN

**Page 28–29**  
Stills from RAN Film

**Page 30**  
Khoiru Abdan

## Photography

**Page 33, 35**  
Anneli PORTMAN

**Page 37**  
Jasmin Ne

**Page 40–41**  
Stills from RAN Film

**Page 43, 44**  
RAN young stills

**Page 48–49**  
Stills from RAN Film

**Page 50**  
Sam McGhee

**Page 61**  
Priscilla Du Perez

**Page 62, 64**  
Courtesy of RAN

**Page 66–67**  
Stills from RAN Film

## Contributors

- 01 Robert ÖRELL
- 02 Maura CONWAY
- 03 Ana RODRIGUEZ CORDERO
- 04 Pia TOFTDAL
- 05 Kelsey BJORNSGAARD
- 06 Harry MOYLAN
- 07 REOC Communications
- 08 RadarGroup



---

## 13 YEARS OF RAN



---

### ENG

This publication has been commissioned by the European Commission and has been prepared by REOC Communications on behalf of RadarEurope, a subsidiary of RadarGroup.

---

### FR

Cette publication a été commandée par la Commission européenne et a été préparée par REOC Communications pour le compte de RadarEurope, une filiale de RadarGroup.

---

### DE

Diese Veröffentlichung wurde von der Europäischen Kommission in Auftrag gegeben und von REOC Communications im Auftrag von RadarEurope, einer Tochtergesellschaft der RadarGroup, erstellt.

---