

RAN UPDATE 1 – June 8, 2012

About the RAN

The Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) was set up by the European Commission as an EU-wide umbrella network of practitioners and local actors involved in countering violent radicalisation. Until 2015, different working groups will exchange experiences, knowledge and good practices through the network. RAN also supports the policy process at the EU and Member States' level. In short, RAN has two main goals: knowledge exchange for practitioners and policy advice of those practitioners to policy makers. The RAN Secretariat is executed by RadarConsultancy, commissioned by the Directorate General Home Affairs (DG HOME) of the European Commission. Eight working groups have now been established, each led by two people from relevant organisations in different Member States. Practitioners from relevant organisations can be appointed as members or participants of a working group. The steering committee of the RAN is composed of all working group leaders, chaired by the European Commission and supported by the RAN Secretariat. Organisations and practitioners from non-Member State Norway also take part in the RAN.

Eight working groups established

Since the end of March 2012, no less than eight working groups (WGs) have been established. The WGs are led by people from different member states, holding a position in an organisation with expertise and a network in the field covered. The following WGs have been established, and the following leaders of those WGs were appointed:

- The WG of police officers and law enforcement officials (RAN POL) is led by Jean Pierre Devos (BE), police
Rupert Dore (UK) police
- The WG on deradicalisation and exit-interventions (RAN DERAD) is led by Harald Weilnboeck (DE), Violence Prevention Network
Robert Örell (SE), Fryshuset/Exit
- The WG for the voices of victims of terrorism (RAN VVT) is led by Luca Guglielminetti (IT), Aiviter
Guillaume Denoix de Saint Marc (FR), Association française des Victimes du Terrorisme.
- The WG on Internet and social media (RAN @) is led by Rachel Briggs (UK), Institute for Strategic Dialogue
- The WG on early interventions and the prevention of radicalisation (RAN PREVENT) is led by Clare White, replaced by Kelly Simcock (UK), Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace
Petér Kreko (HU), Political Capital Group & Social Development Institute
- The WG on internal/external factors (RAN INT/EXT), such as foreign fighters and diaspora, is led by Magnus Ranstorp (SE), Swedish National Defence College
Peter Knoope (NL), International Centre for Counter-Terrorism
- The WG of prison and probation services (RAN P&P) is led by Finn Grav (NO), P&P department

Yola Wanders (NL), Vught prison

- The WG of health practitioners (RAN HEALTH) is led by Hamp Harmsen (NL), GGZ Nederland (mental health sector organisation)

Chris Charlton (UK), National Health Service

RAN activities organised and planned

On 24-26 April RAN POL was the first WG to organise a meeting. In Sofia a conference was held, which was attended by some 70 police officers and law enforcement officials from nearly all member states. On 29-30 May in Paris, RAN VVT organised their first meeting. Some 40 representatives from victim organisations participated. Non EU organisations were present as well.

RAN DERAD organised a meeting on 4-5 June in Stockholm with some 40 practitioners active in de-radicalisation. Most participants came from NGOs, working with prisoners, with youth, with communities, etc..

Nearly all the other WGs have planned meetings after the summer holiday. For the moment, only the WG leaders are members of the RAN. They are also members of the Steering Committee of the RAN, chaired by the European Commission. It is foreseen that the Steering Committee will meet three times in 2012.